

Hafa Adai!

'Mid-June is realistic date to reopen CNMI's tourism' **PAGE 2**
32% of CNMI population now fully vaccinated. **PAGE 3**

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Saipan Tribune

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10.5K to get stimulus today

» Finance to start mailing today over 21,000 paper checks totaling \$40M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig disclosed yesterday that about 10,500 taxpayers who chose to receive their stimulus payments via direct deposit will receive the mon-



Atalig

ey in their bank accounts starting today, Monday, and within 48 hours. That's for a total of about \$26 million.

As for those who opted to get their stimulus payments via paper checks, Atalig said they printed over 21,000 checks totaling about \$40 million and these will be mailed out today.

Each stimulus check

is worth at least \$1,400 each. The releases today represent just the first batch. There will still be future batches of stimulus payments. The CNMI will be receiving a total of \$85 million for this tranche of stimulus payments.

Atalig said paper checks See **STIMULUS on Page 4**

Firefighter accused of sexual assault

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A firefighter of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services was arrested last week for allegedly sexually assaulting a

co-worker.

Peter Litulumar, 45, was arrested last Thursday for sexual assault in the second degree after a co-worker alleged that he came to work drunk and

See **FIREFIGHTER on Page 4**



CHAMORU MONTH

Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas, checks out a cultural display at JRM headquarters in Asan, Guam. The display, prepared by JRM staff, highlighted local weaving, fruit and treats in honor of CHamoru month, which celebrates the history and heritage of the people of Guam and the CNMI.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

No region in the world spared as virus cases, deaths surge

By VANESSA GERA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Hospitals in Turkey and Po-

land are filling up. Pakistan is restricting domestic travel. The U.S. government will send more help to the state with the country's worst infection increase.

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, April 11, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,830	3	7,833
Recovered	7,666	4	7,670
Active	24	3	27
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	144,499		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	160	0	160
Traced via Travel Screening	124	0	124
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	26		

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 16,727	Dose 1: 953	Dose 1: 944
Dose 2: 12,038	Dose 2: 658	Dose 2: 735

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

RELATED NEWS

16 years and older to be vaccinated on Tinian and Rota. **PAGE 3**

The worldwide surge in coronavirus cases and deaths includes even Thailand, which has weathered the pandemic far better than many na-

See **VIRUS on Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



LOCAL

The U.S. 7th Fleet says more than 14,000 of its service members are now fully vaccinated.

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BUSINESS

Bes House of Chicken extends a helping hand to those in need during this pandemic.

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LIFE & STYLE

Buckingham Palace offers the outlines of a royal funeral for Prince Philip, who died Friday.

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Local

‘Mid-June is realistic date to reopen CNMI’s tourism’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While Guam is reopening its tourism industry next month, the CNMI is looking at mid-June as the “realistic” date to reopen its borders to tourists, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday at a radio news briefing.

Still, underscoring previous statements that a specific date to reopen the CNMI continues to be a moving target, Torres disclosed that they are eyeing reopening either in May or June because they want to have at least 80% of the community already vaccinated against COVID-19.

Realistically, though, mid-June is their target and the only reason why he also mentioned mid-May is because they do have an airline that’s anxious for the CNMI to reopen immediately.

“We are looking into what is the herd immunity percentage by then. But June is most likely that we are looking at,” he said.

Torres said they have a task force under the Governor’s Economic Council of Advis-

ers for air transportation and it has already received some feelers from some airlines in South Korea that they are now working on.

He said there are also some interest as well with other airlines on the opening travel date, whether it’s in mid-May or even mid-June.

The governor said that, although the quarantine for many Asian market is 14 days, there is still a strong interest to travel to the CNMI.

“As we plan this out for May [or] June, we know that we will have early immunity here and thus make it easier for us to open up our borders,” Torres said. “We need to push hard in having a reasonable and sound open date for us.”

He said they are working with these target countries and looking at the number of the percentages of vaccinations that would assure herd immunity in the CNMI. Herd immunity is when a sufficient number of the population is already vaccinated against a disease, thus providing an



Torres

indirect form of protection for those who are not vaccinated yet. Right now, because COVID-19 is a fairly new disease, it is unknown yet how much of the population should be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to have herd immunity. In most cases, the number of the vaccinated population should be in the high percentages.

As to the question why the CNMI is looking at reopening later than Guam which has more COVID-19 positive cases, Torres said they want to make sure that CNMI has a high percentage—at least 80%—of the community already vaccinated.

Secondly, he said, is the understanding of the quarantine measures in place at the CNMI’s tourism markets.

“This will allow us to have a sound judgment on what is what we are able and capable and willing to open up the right way for the CNMI,” the governor said.

He said they want to make sure that CNMI’s infrastructure is ready when opening

the borders and continue that strong partnership with the Asian market.

Torres said he is waiting for his task force’s recommendations for the specific opening date.

“But at the end of the day, we want to make sure that when we give a date, an exact date, that things are in place already,” he said.

The governor said they are working on additional pro-

ocols as well with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and all other agencies that are working on reopening the CNMI’s borders.

Anti-Asian hate crimes provoking fears

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The increasing number of hate crime incidents against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S. mainland during the COVID-19 pandemic is provoking fears and concern among CNMI residents who have relatives in the U.S. mainland.

One mother, who agreed to speak with *Saipan Tribune* on the condition of anonymity, said she’s worried about her daughter who is studying in the U.S. mainland because of these violent attacks against Asians.

“Every day I pray for my daughter’s safety. I’m so worried every time I see on the news these Asian hate crimes,” she said.

A college student, who also asked not to be identified, said he was prompted to send a message to his female friend who is working in the U.S. mainland to be extra careful, soon after seeing on social media reports about some Asians being physically attacked.

Hundreds of demonstrators recently gathered in Koreatown in Los Angeles, California for a unity rally to demand an end to the reported increase in anti-Asian racism and violence nationwide.

The Biden administration recently announced new actions that build on Biden’s executive order aimed at fighting racism and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

When asked for comments about these concern during his radio press briefing last Fri-

day, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said there’s never a right time to have regardless of race. He said there’s no room for racism in the CNMI or the states or anywhere in the world. “Of course, I don’t want racism and have never been supportive of racism,” he added.

He expressed hope for an end to Asian hate crimes. “Treat everybody equally, treat everybody with respect. ...Same with the gender. Same with any other issues. You may agree, you may disagree. But you move forward and you move forward with respect,” Torres said.

The governor said it is the parents’ obligation too to also teach their children. “It is our obligation to also teach our children what is the right way and to teach respect, love and compassion,” he said.

2021 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Get Involved & Be Part of The Change

“Training & Technical Support for Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in the CNMI”

SAIPAN: APRIL 17, 2021

HYATT REGENCY 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TIME	Presentation
08:00 AM - 08:30 AM	Registration
08:30 AM - 08:35 AM	Welcoming Remarks John Cabrera Program Aide, NMPASI
08:35 AM - 09:35 AM	Promoting Health for Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities How do I keep my child healthy? How can I help my child be all they can be? Rachel Haynes, DNP -PNP-PC CHCC, Children's Clinic
09:35 AM - 09:45 AM	Rota: Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Updates Saipan: Break
09:45 AM - 10:20 AM	Basic American Sign Language (Beginners) Ms. Jennifer Tarnay Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii
10:20 AM - 10:45 AM	Individualized Family Service Plan 101 Infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families who receive early intervention services are provided processes under IDEA Part C to ensure the smooth delivery of services. Robin Palacios, MA. Sp Ed. Director, Early Intervention Program
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Individualized Education Plan 101 General overview for PSS Special Education student supports and services. Donna M. Flores, M.S. Director, Special Education Program

ROTA: MAY 1, 2021

AS PARIS 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TIME	Presentation
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lunch Break
12:00 PM - 12:20 PM	Helpful Apps for Individuals who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing & Their Families Carla D. Coldeen, M.Ed., ATP Service Provider and Owner, Assistive Technology Professional & Consulting Services
12:20 PM - 01:20 PM	Parenting Strategies Interventions & strategies for parents of deaf & Hard of Hearing students and what they should know Tai D. Doram Certified Cognitive Behavior Consultant Behavior Specialist, CNMI Public School System
01:20 PM - 01:30 PM	Energizer
01:30 PM - 01:50 PM	Testimonials from the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Community
01:50 PM - 02:00 PM	Services for Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Community Tiava To'omata/ Samuel Santos Planner/ Pre-ETS Coordinator, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
02:00 PM - 02:10 PM	Programs & Services Frances A. Torres Federal Program Coordinator, Workforce Investment Agency
02:10 PM - 02:30 PM	CIRCLES Congresswoman Leila Staffler Closing Remarks

32% OF CNMI POPULATION NOW FULLY VACCINATED

16 years and older to be vaccinated on Tinian and Rota

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is working on getting the COVID-19 vaccine to those who are 16 years old and older among Tinian and Rota residents to speed up the vaccination process as a means for the CNMI to gain herd immunity.

Speaking at a media briefing last Friday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña says 44% of the CNMI's

adult population has been vaccinated, with 32% being fully vaccinated, and 60% of the CNMI's elderly population—65 years and older—already vaccinated.

Muña says herd immunity is now possible. "It looks like we're getting there. ... We're talking about mid-June," said Muña. Herd immunity is when an enough number of the population is vaccinated against a disease, providing a form of protection for those

who are unvaccinated.

Muña confirmed that those who are 16 years and older on Tinian and Rota will be vaccinated with the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

This is a change of vaccine for the two islands. Muña said in previous interviews that Rota and Tinian vaccinations will use the Moderna Inc. vaccine because it can be readily transported using conventional storage equipment, unlike the Pfizer vaccine that requires

special equipment for ultra-cold storage. That was also the reason why Tinian and Rota could only vaccinate those who are 18 years old and older because CHCC could only ship out the Moderna vaccine, which was only for those who are 18 and above.

With the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine being shipped out to both islands, this will allow CHCC to lower its vaccination ages on Tinian and Rota to those who are 16 years

and older.

In a related story, CHCC vaccinated 80 people on Tinian last April 10, including 39 U.S. Navy Seabees who are on the island for infrastructure improvement projects, according to CHCC's Facebook page.

To date, Rota has vaccinated 944 of its population, with 735 completing the vaccination process. Tinian has vaccinated 953 of its population

with 658 completing the vaccination process.

Community-based testing

According to CHCC's Facebook page, free community-based testing for COVID-19 will be available on April 14 from 1pm to 4pm at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

CHCC says this testing is

See 16 on Page 11

Man gets 30 years for sexual abuse of a minor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a 30-year sentence on a man who had pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim Tenorio sentenced Rudolph Rudolph, 55, to 30 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, which he will serve day by day without the possibility of parole.

Rudolph, who was represented by court-appointed counsel Anthony Aguon, pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Rudolph was initially charged with three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and four counts of

sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree but the Office of the Attorney General later dropped the other charges as part of the plea agreement.

Following the completion of his sentence, Rudolph will be placed on 10 years' probation and must register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry.

Rudolph was also ordered not to have any direct contact with the victim in this case for 30 years.

According to the basis of the plea agreement, Rudolph had sex with the minor on or about July 1, 2020.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the Department of Public Safety received a re-



Rudolph

port on July 20, at about 2:25pm about a sexual assault of a minor case through the Department of Youth Services. The suspect in the case was identified as Rudolph.

On July 19, Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio authorized the issuance of an arrest warrant

for Rudolph for the charges of sexual assault of a minor in the first degree and sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, with a cash bail set at \$50,000.

Probable cause to try Rudolph was delayed several times because his preliminary hearing was postponed thrice due to procedural matters.

Good weather all week long

The CNMI is expected to see good weather all week long, with partly cloudy skies and a chance of isolated showers.

According to a weather forecast from the National Weather Service in Guam, the weather today is expected to be partly cloudy with isolated showers, with east winds of 10 to 15 mph and a 20% chance of showers.

On Tuesday, the weather is expected to remain mostly cloudy with isolated showers but east winds may rise to 10 to 20 mph.

From Wednesday through Saturday, the CNMI can expect slightly wetter weather conditions with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms and a 30% chance of precipitation.

Through Saturday and Sunday, the weather is expected to pick back up, mostly cloudy with a 20% chance of showers.

The CNMI is also expected to experience moderate trade winds and combined seas of 3 to 5 feet through Tuesday. Combined seas are expected to increase to 4 to 6 feet Tuesday night and winds to moderate to fresh Thursday. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected

Wednesday through Friday.
(Kimberly Esmores)

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APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION DEADLINE

May 01, 2021

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- \$1000 off of tuition for 3rd child
- \$1500 off of tuition for 4th child

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NMTI sets to submit budget request on Thursday

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institution is getting ready to submit its budget proposal for fiscal year 2021 this Thursday, April 15, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao, even as they anticipate more funding to flow into the institute.

Speaking at the NMTI's board of trustees special board meeting last April 9, Attao said she is currently working on putting all the numbers together before she submits the institute's fiscal year 2021 budget proposal to the Office of the Governor.

"All of these budget proposals that I'm working on are getting broken into what we are able to allocate for,"

said Attao.

She said NMTI also has the American Rescue Plan grant that will help cover most of their facilities maintenance and repairs. A proposal outlining how this funding will be spent will also be submitted to the Office of the Governor on April 15.

Attao said NMTI is also anticipating approval of its Employment and

Training Administration grant, which will be able to help NMTI move forward with projects. "We have gotten in touch with Mr. Mariano Iglecias, and he has connected us with Mr. Ryan Parker. ... We're able to connect and really get all that information up to speed. We are reviewing our status number, so the projects can move on," said Attao.

As for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funds, Attao said at the meeting that NMTI has yet to receive funds after April 14, 2020. It was learned at the meeting that NMTI has received a monthly income of \$325,000 from fiscal years 2018 to

2019, and part of fiscal year 2020. On Oct. 29, 2018, NMTI received \$325,000. From Jan. 1, 2019, to March 31, 2019, another \$325,000; another \$325,000 from April 18, 2019 to June 7, 2019; and \$325,000 from July 11, 2019 to Sept. 5, 2019. Attao says this is a total federal appropriation of \$1.3 million.

For 2020, NMTI received \$325,000 on Dec. 12, 2019, \$325,000 on Feb. 13, 2020, and on April 14, 2020 another \$325,000. Attao says they have yet to see any funding since then. She said NMTI would have received approximately a million dollars for fiscal year 2020.

VIRUS

From Page 1

tions but now struggles to contain COVID-19.

The only exceptions to the deteriorating situation are countries that have advanced vaccination programs, most notably Israel and Britain. The U.S., which is a vaccination leader globally, is also seeing a small uptick in new cases, and the White House announced Friday that it would send federal assistance to Michigan to control the state's worst-in-the-nation transmission rate.

The World Health Organization said infection rates are climbing in every global region, driven by new virus variants and too many countries coming out of lockdown too soon.

"We've seen rises [in cases] worldwide for six weeks. And now, sadly, we are seeing rises in deaths for the last three weeks," Dr. Margaret Harris, a WHO spokeswoman, said at a briefing in Geneva.

In its weekly epidemiological update, the WHO said over 4 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the last week. New deaths increased by 11% compared to last week, with over 71,000 reported.

The increasing infections, hospitalizations and deaths extend to countries where vaccinations are finally gaining momentum. That leaves even bleaker prospects for much of the world, where large-scale vaccination programs remain a more distant prospect.

In Turkey, which is among the badly hit countries, most new cases of the virus can be traced to a variant first found in Britain.

Ismail Cinel, head of the Turkish

Intensive Care Association, said the surge was beginning to strain the nation's relatively advanced health care system and "the alarm bells are ringing" for intensive care units, which are not yet at full capacity.

"The mutant form of the virus is causing more harm to the organs," Cinel said. "While 2 out of 10 patients were dying previously, the number is now 4 out of 10. And if we continue this way, we will lose six."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan eased COVID-19 restrictions in early March to minimize pain to his nation's ailing economy. The new spike forced him to announce renewed restrictions, such as weekend lockdowns and the closure of cafes and restaurants during Ramadan, which starts April 13.

Turkish medical groups say the reopening in March was premature and that the new measures do not go far enough. They have been calling for full lockdowns during the holy Muslim month.

In the U.S. capital, President Joe Biden's administration outlined how the federal government planned to help Michigan better administer the doses already allocated to the state, as well as expand testing capacity and the availability of drugs. The effort will not include any extra vaccine doses, a move Gov. Gretchen Whitmer sought.

Doses are currently allocated to states proportionally by population. Whitmer has called for extra doses to be shifted to states like hers experiencing a sharp rise in cases. She also urged a voluntary two-week halt to in-person high school classes, youth sports and indoor restaurant dining, but stopped short of issuing new re-

strictions.

In Brazil, which has the second-highest death toll in the world after the U.S., Sao Paulo has started night burials to cope with demand, and school vans have been used to transport coffins. With the pace of vaccination already slow—less than 3% of Brazil's 210 million people have received both vaccine doses, according to the research site Our World in Data—some governors have expressed concern about vaccine supplies.

The death toll in Iran is also rising, prompting new restrictions that will take effect for 10 days in 257 cities beginning Saturday. They involve the closure of all parks, restaurants, confectionaries, beauty salons, malls and bookstores.

Authorities in Pakistan, which is in the middle of a third surge of infections, are restricting inter-city transportation on weekends starting at midnight Friday.

Elsewhere in Asia, authorities in Thailand ordered new restrictions Friday in an effort to contain a growing coronavirus outbreak just days before the country's traditional Songkran New Year's holiday, when millions of people travel.

In Germany, Poland and other countries in the 27-member European Union, vaccination programs are finally ramping up after a slow start blamed on delivery shortages.

Thousands of German medical practices joined the vaccination campaign this week, helping the country reach consecutive daily records for doses administered. So far, 14.7% of the population has received at least one dose and 5.8% has received both shots.

and all other potential witnesses.

According to court documents, the victim had called the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division on April 7 at about 8:30am, to report a sexual assault incident and was scheduled for an interview at 9:28am that same day.

During the interview, the victim told investigators that the incident happened last April 5, soon after she arrived for work at Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi, which the CNMI government is using as a quarantine facility for arriving passengers from Guam.

She said she arrived at the resort around 8:30am and Litulumar arrived for duty shortly after, at around 9:30am. Upon arriving, Litulumar allegedly told the victim that he had a couple of rounds of beer and was feeling "drunk."

After lunch, the victim said she informed Litulumar that she was going

to take a nap during her down time. The victim said she later woke up to Litulumar allegedly caressing her through her sleeping bag. The victim told investigators that she was lying face down on her stomach in her sleeping bag and that Litulumar lay right beside her and was "full on feeling" and squeezing her buttocks.

Litulumar allegedly also sat on her legs below her buttocks, took his pants off, and leaned forward, repeatedly touching her. When she looked back at him, the victim said all Litulumar had on was his uniform and boxers.

She told investigators that the assault allegedly lasted about five minutes while she repeatedly told Litulumar to get off of her. She eventually managed to crawl out of her sleeping bag and run out of the room.

Litulumar allegedly came out of the room at around 4:30pm to apologize to her.

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From Page 3

and for those who want to get tested can register at vaccinecnmi.com/covidtesting.

According to Warren Villagomez, chairman of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, active coordination with the SolGent Co. team is still in place. Villagomez said three SolGent scientists from Korea will be coming on island on April 21. SolGent Co. is the Korean company that provides the CNMI its testing kits.

Villagomez added that the scientists will help with the the CBT. He also confirmed that there is a mobile

laboratory on island, which would provide testing capability for the technicians and scientist from Korea.

"Our mobile laboratory is on island, and we are working on the details for placement of the mobile laboratory, and that would be providing the capability for our technicians, our scientists from Korea. ... Everything is going as planned," said Villagomez.

According to Muña, those who are traveling into the CNMI and who are fully vaccinated are still getting tested for COVID-19. "Even if you're fully vaccinated, you do have a chance of being positive. The significant impact on someone's health is basically reduced with the vaccination," said Muña.

STIMULUS

From Page 1

will be mailed out this morning, Monday, and taxpayers could expect these checks to be in their mailboxes during the week and next week.

As for direct deposit, the Finance secretary said those with Bank of Guam accounts can expect their stimulus funds to be in their account Monday afternoon; those with accounts in other banks should expect their direct deposit within 48 hours.

As for the paper checks, Atalig reminds recipients that the Department of Finance does not control how the post office will distribute and how quickly they can have these checks in their postal boxes.

He said the staff at Finance, most especially at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Division of Treasury, and Division of Information Technology worked all weekend to ensure they had no further delays in getting these stimulus checks to the community who need this relief.

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier blamed the delay in the release of stimulus payments last week on the U.S. Department of Treasury's "unusually lengthy approval process" of the CNMI government's implementation plan for the stimulus funds. The U.S. Treasury approved the CNMI's implementation plan on the same day it also approved the plans of other U.S. territories like Guam.

Meanwhile, press secretary Kevin Bautista said yesterday that the Office of the Governor and Finance

are aware of a video of checks being printed that is being circulated on social media. He pointed out that this is an old video taken several years ago by an employee who no longer works for Finance.

Bautista said the community is advised to stop circulating this old video of checks being printed as it is illegal to share personal financial information. "This video does not reflect the humble and hard work currently being done by Division of Revenue and Taxation employees to get stimulus checks out expeditiously," Bautista said.

He said Finance does not allow its employees to record or take pictures of any activity involving sensitive financial information. "This policy has been strictly enforced under the Torres-Palacios administration to protect CNMI taxpayers, their families, and our community from theft and fraud," Bautista added.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the CNMI should now be able to pay another \$1,400 rebate to most Marianas taxpayers.

He said single tax filers with incomes up to \$150,000 and head of household filers with incomes up to \$112,500 are eligible for the full \$1,400. Joint filers with incomes up to \$150,000 are eligible for \$2,800. Each dependent child will also receive \$1,400 and that the American Rescue Plan expanded the definition of dependent to include students over the age of 17, elderly adults, and disabled persons, who do not file their own tax returns.

FIREFIGHTER

From Page 1

sexually assaulted her while she was taking a nap.

During a bail hearing last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail on Litulumar, who was scolded for "making jokes" and not taking the matter seriously after stating that he could afford a lawyer "as long as it's the cheapest lawyer" the court could find him.

Litulumar, who was later represented by the Office of the Public Defender's JP Nogues, was remanded back to the Department of Corrections after failing to post bail. He was ordered to return to court on April 16 at 10am for a preliminary hearing and on April 20 to be arraigned.

The defendant was ordered to have no contact with the victim in this case

Island Snapshots



SALVATION ARMY DRIVE
Members of the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1560 gather for a photo with C.J. Urquico, The Salvation Army Guam Corps public relations and developments coordinator, during a donation delivery at The Salvation Army Guam Corps headquarters in Barrigada, Guam last April 8, 2021. The AFSA members garnered more than 1,800 items through donation drives during the month of March, which totaled to \$10,000 in assistance for The Salvation Army.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS

U.S. Air Force airmen from Andersen Air Force Base's Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1560 donate essential items at The Salvation Army Guam Corps headquarters in Barrigada, Guam, April 8, 2021.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS



U.S. Air Force airmen from Andersen Air Force Base's Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1560 donate essential items at The Salvation Army Guam Corps headquarters in Barrigada, Guam, April 8, 2021.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Monica Mendez, Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1560 member, assists Travis Chanco, a staff member of The Salvation Army Guam Corps, with placing donation items into a cart at The Salvation Army Guam Corps headquarters in Barrigada, Guam, April 8, 2021.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN AUBREE OWENS



MES CHAMORU
ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas, checks out a cultural display with Annie Fejeran, financial technician, at JRM headquarters in Asan. The display, prepared by JRM staff, highlighted local weaving, fruit and treats in honor of CHamoru Month, which celebrates the history and heritage of the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.
U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

A display of woven items, local fruits and foods, welcomes visitors at Joint Region Marianas headquarters in Asan. The display was prepared by JRM staff in honor of CHamoru Month.
U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



From left, Emergency Medical Services Chief Tom Manglona, Special Operations Chief James Scribner, and Regional Fire Chief Russell Tarver of Joint Region Marianas Fire and Emergency Services, partake in a spread of local dishes in celebration of CHamoru Month at JRM headquarters. CHamoru month, observed in March, highlights the history and heritage of the people of Guam and the CNMI.
U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950



THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IS SOLICITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS



CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM WORKERS

SAIPAN – FOUR (4) POSITIONS	ROTA – TWO (2) POSITIONS	STIPEND \$7.75 PER HOUR
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DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist with Parent Education Classes, Parents Anonymous®, Inc. activities, After School Program, Youth Sessions, Parent Sessions and Community Sessions.
- Transport participants to and from program sessions.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS/CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM WORKERS MUST:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years old and enjoy being with children.
- Have one (1) year experience in early childhood or school setting.
- Participate in training sessions provided by the Family & Youth Enhancement Program.
- Commit at least six (6) hours per week to the Program.
- Commit to at least one (1) year of work for the Program.
- Complete all necessary documents (Application form with Resume/Police Clearance/Traffic Clearance/Business License/Tax ID Card Number, etc.)
- Have valid CNMI driver's license and a clean traffic record.
- Have not committed or been convicted of child abuse or any crime involving physical harm to another person.
- Provide additional documents, if needed.

Interested applicants may pick up application form at the DYS Family & Youth Enhancement Program, Kagman Community Center or download the application at www.dys.gov.mp. Completed applications can be submitted at the Kagman Community Center or e-mailed to jtanaka@dys.gov.mp or molopai@dys.gov.mp.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 16, 2021

For more information about this announcement, please contact:

Jennifer O. Tanaka
Federal Program Coordinator IV
Family & Youth Enhancement Program
jtanaka@dys.gov.mp * 237-1018

Maria L. Olopai
Community Development Specialist II
Family & Youth Enhancement Program
molopai@dys.gov.mp * 237-1015

IRS reminds of US income tax rules relating to PUA

Name: Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut
Address: P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 233-7678 (Work)

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut)
(Name of Father))

P.J.E.R.) FCD PA
(Name of Child)) CIVIL ACTION
Minor Child) NO. 21-0030
Plaintiffs,)
vs.) **SUMMONS**
Jhumilyn S. Esposo)
(Name of Mother))
Defendant,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut whose address is P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2021

/s/
Clerk of Court

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Internal Revenue Service reminds eligible residents of the U.S. territories that if they receive unemployment compensation payments that are otherwise subject to U.S. income tax, they may be eligible to exclude up to \$10,200 per person of unemployment compensation from U.S. income tax for 2020, following legislation that was passed March 11, 2021.

Taxpayers with modified adjusted income of less than \$150,000 may exclude the first \$10,200 of unemployment compensation from their 2020 federal income tax return. In the case of taxpayers that are married filing jointly, the maximum exclusion would be \$10,200 for each spouse for a maximum of \$20,400. Taxpayers who filed before the law was passed should not file an amended return.

Last year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed legislation providing eligible individuals with two new types of pandemic-related unemployment compensation, which are sub-

ject to the same U.S. tax rules that apply to other unemployment compensation:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

The \$10,200 exclusion applies to these new types of unemployment compensation for U.S. income tax purposes.

The IRS also notes that for U.S. income tax purposes, unemployment compensation is generally considered sourced where the taxpayer performed the underlying services. For guidance on the U.S. income taxation of residents of the U.S. territories, see Publication 570, Tax Guide for Individuals with Income from U.S. Possessions.

The U.S. territories are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

U.S. territory residents should contact their territory tax department with questions relating to the taxation of COVID-related unemployment compensation at the territory level. **(PR)**

Scheduled power outages on April 13, 14, 15

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on April 13-15, 2021 for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Puerto Rico, Talafofo and Koblerville.

CUC will temporarily shut-off power in order so its linemen can safely replace rotted power poles in the affected areas.

Tuesday, April 13, 2021- 8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

- Outage Type: Sectionalized Interruption on the Feeder 1 Circuit
- Project Location: Along Manilao Drive in Puerto Rico
- Power Service Areas Affected: Manilao Drive in Puerto Rico (see attached map)
- Water Well Affected: PR-164 Well
- Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None



Wednesday, April 14, 2021- 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

- Outage Type: Sectionalized Interruption on the Feeder 4 Circuit
- Project Location: Talafofo Road
- Power Service Areas Affected: Talafofo Road (see attached map)
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None



Thursday, April 15, 2021- 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

- Outage Type: Sectionalized Interruption on the Kiya 2 Circuit
- Project Location: Koblerville
- Power Service Areas Affected: Parts of Adobu Drive and Koblerville Estate in Koblerville (see attached map)
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-CHCC/RHC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 6th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“ROTA HEALTH CENTER-NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING OUTREACH SPECIALIST

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021 AT 4:00PM

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/CCDF-076

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 12, 2021 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“TO IMPLEMENT THE CCDF’s SCIENCE OF
EARLY LEARNING (SOEL) INITIATIVE”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON **MAY 03, 2021 AT 09:30 A.M.** CONTRACTOR MAY REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE VIA VIRTUAL OR REMOTE. IF REQUESTING VIA VIRTUAL OR REMOTE, REQUEST MUST BE MADE VIA EMAIL TO mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com AT LEAST 3-WORKDAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED CONFERENCE. CALENDAR INVITE AND LINK WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO REQUESTED PARTICIPATION VIA VIRTUAL OF REMOTE.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA EMAIL TO mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com OR VIA FACSIMILE TO (670)-664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 28, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.0-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for

Accountant

 E-mail Resume and References to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com
 and deltaspn@pticom.com

US 7th Fleet: 14,000 personnel fully vaccinated

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5-Task Group 75.1 Command Master Chief Daniel Martin receives the COVID-19 vaccine from Hospitalman Carl Brown with U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP



PHILIPPINE SEA (AP)—The U.S. 7th Fleet that operates throughout the Indo-Pacific says more than 14,000 of its service members have received their full doses of the coronavirus vaccine, which it began administering on January 5.

“We are in a pandemic and our principle weapon for ending this and saving lives is the vaccine,” vaccine coordinator Capt. Joseph F. Penta was quoted as saying in a news release. “We owe it to ourselves, our family and country to make every effort to stop the pandemic.”

Receiving the vaccination was voluntary and medical personnel were on hand to answer any questions about the process, the release said.

The 7th Fleet operates 50-70 ships and submarines and regularly interacts with forces from 35 other countries. It deploys to the South China Sea, where China has been pressing its claim to virtually the entirely strategic waterway.

Last April, more than 500 crew members aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt tested positive for the virus and one died after the ship docked in Guam. That came amid a crisis during which the Navy’s civilian leader fired the ship’s captain after accusing him of too widely distributing a letter calling for more urgent action to deal with the outbreak. The administration official resigned shortly after coming under criticism for the firing.

Support group for family caregivers of persons with dementia

Throughout the month of April, the Isa Psychological Services Center at the University of Guam will provide an opportunity for family caregivers to participate in an award-winning training and certification program for family caregivers of persons with dementia.

The educational program, titled CARES Dementia Care for Families, was created by HealthCare Interactive, an organization that specializes in on-line training for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. It offers practical strategies for family members caring for a loved one with dementia through an interactive format involving educational activities and interviews with dementia experts, family caregivers, and persons with dementia themselves.

The training program includes four modules that will be conducted online over a four-week period. Participants will have an opportunity to complete each of the program’s four modules on either a Wednesday evening or a Saturday morning. The first module, called Understanding Memory Loss, was already conducted last April 7 and April 10. The next modules are as follows:

Module 2: Living with Dementia:

■ 6pm-8pm on Wednesday, April 14

■ 10am-Noon on Saturday, April 17

Module 3: Using the CARES Approach:

■ 6pm-8pm on Wednesday, April 21

■ 10am-Noon on Saturday, April 24

Module 4: Keys to Success with CARES:

■ 6pm-8pm on Wednesday, April 28

■ 10am-Noon on Saturday, May 1

Support group sessions throughout 2021

The CARES Dementia Care for Families training sessions are part of Isa’s ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted in collaboration with the UOG School of Health’s Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. Support group sessions will be held year-round in 2021. The sessions are free of charge to partners, fam-

ily members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia throughout Micronesia. The support groups will be conducted remotely on Zoom during the pandemic.

What to expect

All support groups are client-centered and confidential. They provide a safe place to share the stresses and challenges, successes, and rewards of caring for a loved one with dementia with others who may be going through similar experiences. They also provide a forum for caregivers to participate in presentations led by health care professionals and other community members with expertise in caring for persons with dementia.

The support groups are facilitated by Iain Twaddle, director of Isa Psychological Services Center

who holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinical psychologist; Rhoda Orallo, a social worker with Health Services of the Pacific who holds a master’s in social work; and Nikolas Gutierrez, a counselor with Isa who holds a bachelor’s in psychology.

How to participate

To attend a family caregiver online support group, use the following Zoom links, or call or email Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or isa@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@teleguam.net.

■ Wednesday Support Groups (6pm-8pm): <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>

■ Saturday Support Groups (10am-Noon): <https://zoom.us/j/91243370958> (PR)



GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OPEN ENROLLMENT

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Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and
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GCA provides the following:

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GCA IS ALSO A PART OF THE U.S. STUDENT & VISITOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND ACCEPTS FOREIGN STUDENTS.




Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, please call 322-3320/3850 or set up an appointment to visit the school

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Biden's moves to curb gun violence should be just the start

President Joe Biden announced a slate of actions Thursday aimed at fulfilling his campaign promise to combat the proliferation of firearms and gun violence that kill some 40,000 people a year in this country. But the moves, while necessary and welcome, also spotlight how few options a president has for addressing an issue that's critical to public safety and public health.

The fact is, there just isn't a lot a president can do unilaterally when it comes to gun control, the template for which is dictated by Congress. Lawmakers have given the administration limited regulatory authority over firearms, and Biden directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to develop new rules on sales of gun parts that can, with a little machine work, be assembled into untraceable weapons called ghost guns.

He also ordered up regulations on stabilizers that in effect convert unregulated assault-style handguns into ersatz rifles, like the one used in the Boulder, Colorado, massacre two weeks ago. What those regulations ultimately will say is the dangling question, but to be effective, they must at a minimum treat core parts like fully functional firearms, including requiring trackable serial numbers.

The bulk of the president's agenda, though, is actually a wish list for congressional action. Biden reiterated his support for two bills the House passed in March that would expand mandatory background checks to include nearly every transfer of a firearm, a long-overdue requirement. He also endorsed a far-too-modest proposal that would extend from three days to 10 the amount of time the government has to complete a background check before the sale can proceed by default. That bill would only partially close a dangerous loophole.

Biden also backed legislation that would revive the 1994 ban on assault rifles (it expired in 2004), add people convicted of abusing a boyfriend or girlfriend to the list of those who can be barred from possessing a firearm, and end gun manufacturers' congressionally granted immunity from liability for virtually all damages caused by their weapons. Those are more ambitious and more contentious.

Finally, the president asked Congress to shore up violence prevention programs and allocate \$5 billion over eight years to expand violence intervention programs to try to reduce the number of violent interactions. And he asked Congress for a national "red flag" law, as well as an incentive program for similar laws at the state level, to empower authorities to temporarily keep firearms away from people deemed to be risks to themselves or others.

These are all common sense approaches to reduce gun deaths, and it's disturbing that they are such heavy lifts in a Congress so beholden to the myth that an armed nation is a safer nation. But that's the political reality that Americans, and Biden, are confronted with. Let the fight begin.

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How African Americans and Chinese immigrants forged a community in the Delta generations ago

Six years ago, I took a fateful trip to Mississippi with my husband, Baldwin Chiu, and his family in search of his grandfather's gravesite. As a Chinese American growing up in Diamond Bar, California, I had never ventured into the Deep South before this trip.

What started out as a family vacation turned into an excavation of the hidden history of not just my husband's family, but of Chinese families in the segregated South. These discoveries greatly changed my perspective on the historical role of Asians in America.

There's a lot of pain associated with the South. Slavery, the Civil War and segregation. These moments in history are always framed in Black and white. When Baldwin first told me that his paternal grandfather and also his great-grandfather were buried in Mississippi, I thought they would be the only Chinese in that cemetery.

Baldwin knew very little about his father's side of the family because my father-in-law, Charles Chiu, grew up in China without his father. Little did I know that generations of Chinese lived and died in the South. Their stories have rarely been told and were excluded from the history books I read in school.

Our quest to learn more about Baldwin's family led us to the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum in Cleveland, Mississippi. I was surprised to find a whole museum dedicated to the history of Chinese Americans in the middle of Mississippi.

I had no idea that there had been a significant Chinese community in that state, one also subjected to many of the Jim Crow laws used to oppress the Black community. I met Chinese Americans who, as children, were barred from attending white public schools because of their race and were sent to a one-room school for Chinese children only, with just one teacher instructing all grades from first to 12th.

I eventually found myself in the small town of Pace, where Baldwin's family grocery store was once located, and which remains a town with a majority Black population. Like Black families in the South in the pre-civil rights era, Chinese families could not live in white neighborhoods.

Chinese immigrants were initially brought to the Mississippi Delta after the Civil War to supplement plantation labor. By the early 1900s, many Chinese lived and worked in family-run grocery stores in predominantly Black neighborhoods in farming towns like Pace. Most of their Black neighbors worked as sharecroppers.

In Pace, we were introduced to the mayor, Levon Jackson, who welcomed us into his house for some barbecued ribs he cooked himself. Mayor Jackson also introduced us to other town residents and the long, rich history of the Black and Asian communities in the Delta.

By LARISSA LAM
Los Angeles Times

Larissa Lam is the director and co-producer, with her husband, Baldwin Chiu, of the documentary *Far East Deep South*. The film premieres on "America ReFramed" on the World Channel on May 4. @LarissaLamion.



Many of the older Black residents, who lived through Jim Crow, told us that they preferred to shop at Chinese grocery stores because they were treated with respect. They could walk through the front door with dignity and not be relegated to a separate "colored" entrance. Some told me that Chinese grocery stores, like the one Baldwin's family ran, offered goods at a lower price and extended credit to sharecroppers who were paid only once or twice a year.

The Chinese and Black families had a shared experience because both were pushed to the margins of society and had to figure out ways to survive together in a white society.

Among my father-in-law's old family photos, we had seen one of a smiling African American man. For a long time, we weren't able to confirm his identity, but it was clear his photo was a treasured keepsake. Recently, we learned that the man's name was Hosey Collins and that he lived in Pace. We heard from other residents that he helped out at Baldwin's family store. We also learned that Baldwin's grandfather, K.C. Lou, in turn, helped out at Hosey's farm. There was a real and strong friendship between these men.

There are lessons we can learn from every chapter of history, even the dark ones. This is just one example of shared history between communities. There are many more stories that haven't been written about but have been experienced by those who lived it.

People talk about the importance of solidarity and genuine community. But it's the lack of these things in recent decades that has allowed hate to rise to fatal heights. Racism hasn't been eradicated, and tensions can exist between various communities.

Many of us don't feel a connection to our neighbors, especially those who don't share our heritage. But the truth is that our histories in this country are more interconnected than we realize. It just hasn't always been shown in our history books.

In the Mississippi Delta nearly a century ago, bonds of community were formed among unlikely neighbors. We should remember those bonds so we can improve the world we live in today.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ballistic missiles and Admiral Davidson

The outgoing head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. Philip Davidson, recently stated in Senate testimony on Capitol Hill that his top priority was to see Congress fund an Aegis Ashore weapons system facility for Guam. According to Davidson, Guam has tremendous amounts of military resources, assets, and thousands of American citizens who need to be protected. Davidson's comments were made in response to China's ongoing military modernization strategy and its ability to launch short, medium, and long-range missiles aimed at Guam.

What is the Aegis system?

The Aegis system is the name of an integrated weapons platform made up of interceptor missiles, missile launchers, computer hardware, computer software and sensor componentry, manned by military personnel. The Aegis system is utilized at sea and on land and is one of several pieces of the broad-based American theater ballistic missile defense system that is geographically distributed in select locations throughout the planet.

The Navy uses Aegis systems capable of performing the ballistic missile defense mission on its surface warships called Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile Aegis destroyers and Ticonderoga-class Aegis cruisers. Approximately 50 Navy surface ships are outfitted with the Aegis system, with close to 40 ships having the capability to perform the ballistic missile defense mission. Of these 40 vessels, approximately 20 are assigned to the Pacific.

Aegis systems placed on land are intended to intercept incoming ballistic missiles, shoot down enemy aircraft and anti-aircraft cruise missiles. Placing an Aegis Ashore facility in Guam would also be used to deter both China and North Korea from launching a missile attack targeting our islands.

The Navy and the Missile Defense Agency oversee the Aegis program for the Pentagon. The Aegis weapons system is roughly 40 years old and was originally set up to protect and defend Navy surface vessels from missile, submarine, airplane, and ship attacks.

Why now, why Guam?

At first glance, the Navy's logic appears somewhat straightforward. Constructing an Aegis facility on-island will free up three Navy surface vessels that currently provide standing mission ballistic missile defense protection. These vessels can then be reassigned to other critical mission areas throughout the region.

An ordinary man battles dueling pandemics

The sunshine bathing his Rose Garden is so bright that Joe Biden can't help but squint as he looks out and starts saying hello to the many people he invited into his backyard. He knows them so well, by now, that he simply calls them by their first names. He also understands that even in his sunlit yard, they are surely still feeling their dark cloud is somewhere overhead. It's been following them everywhere, ever since that godawful day.

"Mark and Jackie, I want to tell you it's always good to see you, but not under these circumstances. ... (I) takes a lot of courage to come to an event like this. ... Mark and Jackie, whose son, Daniel, was a first grader in Sandy Hook Elementary School, Daniel loved sports, loves outdoor sports, getting muddy. I see my friend, Fred Guttenberg. His daughter, Jamie, was a freshman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. She was an accomplished dancer. I see Brandon Wolf, the shooting at the Pulse Nightclub; he survived, but his two best friends died. Greg Jackson, who was just walking down the street when he was caught in crossfire of a gunfight.

"Of course, I see a close friend of Jill's and mine, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who is here, who was speaking with her constituents in front of a grocery store in her state when she was shot and a member of her staff was killed. They're here, and their pain is immense. ... (I) if you've gone through a trauma ... every time you show up at an event like this, it brings back when you got that phone call."

Joe got that phone call 49 years ago. (Car accident; not a gun.) But, as Joe discovered, the feeling never really goes away. It becomes a core part of who you are. And that is what all of us are

The thinking behind having an Aegis Ashore facility in Guam is that it will augment the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, ground-based interceptor platform managed by the Army up at Andersen Air Force Base.

What Davidson didn't say

Many things were not included in Davidson's remarks to Congress. The Navy remains under tremendous pressure to conduct a variety of missions throughout the Pacific Ocean using relatively limited and/or overutilized resources. He made no detailed mention of why this request was being made now.

Davidson failed to state that the Aegis system is both a defensive and offensive weapons platform, not just the former. He did not mention that Aegis Ashore systems may or may not be more survivable than the Aegis systems placed on Navy ships, and he failed to talk about the limitations of the Aegis system and to distinguish whether a Guam-based operation will be capable of intercepting incoming missiles at terminal and/or mid-course stages.

Davidson made no mention if the Northern Marianas Islands would be the site for long range land-based radar to compliment an Aegis Ashore installation in Guam. He made no mention of how many missiles would be located at a Guam Aegis Ashore facility. He made no mention of precisely how many Aegis surface ships will be assigned, if any, to support Guam's ground-based interceptor architecture should the Aegis Ashore facility be built. Lastly, Davidson made no mention that the American citizens in Guam that he referenced in congressional testimony remain politically disenfranchised, colonized, and have no real and equal say on matters pertaining to national security and decision-making.

Some risks to the Chamorro people of Guam and the CNMI

The Aegis Ashore system cannot defend against incoming hypersonic speed cruise missiles coming in at low altitudes and neither can the THAAD. Our ancient Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization could be disseminated if a saturation attack occurred against Guam, through incoming massive barrages of highly maneuverable reentry vehicles and warheads, cruise missiles and small unmanned aircraft systems. Issues of reliability and effective coordination between the Aegis Ashore system and the THAAD remain unclear should Guam come under actual attack.

In addition, the military would not be able to control where

discovering now, about Joe.

We have seen presidents who seemed made to lead by the strength of their exceptional leadership gifts—FDR. We have seen a president who seemed made to lead by inspiring a new generation with his presence and eloquence—JFK. We have seen a president who seemed able to lead as if he was portraying Hollywood's dream combination of those two—RR.

President Joe Biden has none of the above qualities of traditional or theatrical leadership. No Ph.D. has been awarded for a thesis on Scranton Joemanship. But somehow, as we have been beset by the COVID-19 pandemic and all the leadership failures that crippled us in recent years, we seem to be seeing the one sort of commonsense leadership that we have long lacked. Indeed, we may have seen it coming together, maybe just a bit, on Thursday, as a summertime sun tried to make all in the Rose Garden forget about our misbegotten spring.

Scranton Joe was there, challenging the world's most irrationally naysaying nation to finally give common sense a try by accepting broader, tougher, new-era modernized controls on the gun-slaughter that has long bloodied the United States and baffled the world as the United States seemed unwilling to curb our addiction to combat-styled, rapid-firing guns.

Thursday, Biden announced executive orders and other new initiatives: Require "ghost gun" kits, that users can assemble into unregistered guns, to bear registered serial numbers and require presale background checks. Place new restrictions on brace modifications that can transform handguns into mini-rifles. Promote "red flag" state laws to permit authorities to temporarily confiscate weapons from persons who have been judged poten-

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

various component parts—used and attached to missile interceptors during the initial take off phase—would land, posing potential dangers of falling debris on our families, homes, and villages.

If Guam were attacked, our people have no comprehensive nuclear bomb shelter infrastructure to go to because Congress has never appropriated the money to provide required safety measures for our people.

More public discussions are needed on the topic of overall village safety so that greater numbers of people will develop a deeper understanding of ballistic missile defense, the Aegis Ashore system and known risks to our families.

What's next?

The Pentagon is working on ways to use the Aegis ballistic missile defense system to intercept intercontinental ballistic missiles. Our Western Pacific and Micronesia region are being used to test, evaluate, and conduct ballistic missile defense-related research on laser weapons placed on Navy surface ships and high velocity projectiles shot from surface ships using electromagnetic force generated from railgun motors onboard.

The Japanese military also remains deeply involved in this ballistic missile defense effort because it has a long-established arrangement with the Pentagon on how to improve missile components such as warheads, sensors and radar technology using state-of-the-art Japanese semiconductors. The Japanese also have approximately seven military surface ships that are equipped with Aegis systems capable of performing ballistic missile defense missions.

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service



Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.






tially harmful to others. Biden also wants to reestablish the assault weapons ban we had for a decade, before then-President George W. Bush allowed it to expire.

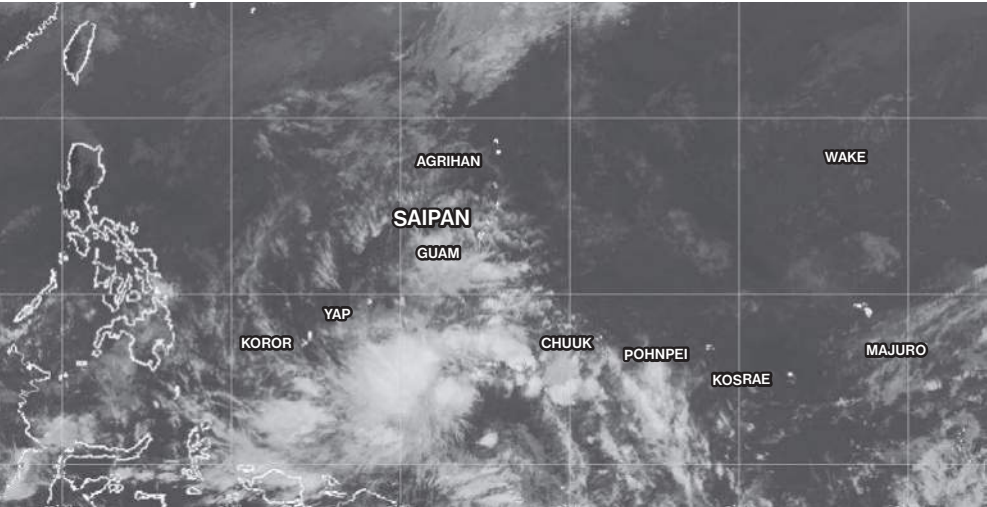
President Biden reported to us some hard-hitting news that our mass media must have missed last month as we mourned two mass shooting tragedies in six days, where a gunman in Georgia killed eight people (six of them Asian Americans) and a gunman in Colorado killed 10.

"You probably didn't hear it," news anchor Biden told us, "but between those two incidents, less than one week apart, there were more than 850 additional shootings. 850 that took the lives of more than 250 people and left 500 injured. This is an epidemic, for God's sake, and it has to stop."

Ordinarily, we'd just nod our heads at that sort of talk and know nothing will change. But Ordinary Scranton Joe may be the one unusual leader who can make common sense happen—especially in a desperate America that finally sees we are indeed battling not one national epidemic, but two.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers for Guam and Rota. 30 percent chance of showers for Tinian and Saipan.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are clear with only a few cumulus clouds across the Marianas. To the south, tropical invest 94W is producing widespread showers and the occasional thunderstorms. Buoys show mixed seas with a north and east swell component. The combined seas are between 4 and 6 feet with a 10 second period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	88 78 °F	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85 77 °F	
Yap	Rain	86 72 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 79 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:09 AM	6:40 PM	-
Tuesday	6:44 AM	7:27 PM	-
Wednesday	7:20 AM	8:15 PM	-
Thursday	7:59 AM	9:04 PM	-
Friday	8:40 AM	9:55 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68 55 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72 56 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80 72 °F	
Honolulu	Cloudy	83 71 °F	
London	Cloudy	61 42 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71 57 °F	
Manila	Sunny	94 78 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	80 56 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90 61 °F	
New York	Cloudy	49 37 °F	
Osaka	Overcast	68 63 °F	
Paris	Sunny	57 39 °F	
Pusan	Overcast	68 44 °F	
Rome	Sunny	64 45 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	61 47 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	73 53 °F	
Seoul	Mist	54 42 °F	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	67 58 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	65 44 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:59 AM	Low Tide	0.55	
7:49 AM	High Tide	1.83	
2:25 PM	Low Tide	0.37	
8:27 PM	High Tide	1.78	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Bes House of Chicken joins feeding program, grocery giveaway

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Barely five months since its grand opening, Bes House of Chicken on Beach Road in Garapan (in front of the TSL Plaza) does not only offer delicious roasted and fried chicken dishes but has already extended a helping hand to those in need during this pandemic. Last week, the restaurant helped facilitate a feeding program and grocery

distribution that ran for a week starting April 4.

According to Bes House of Chicken manager Leo Legaspi, the program is a long-time advocacy of the Members Church of God International. "We are reaching out to community members to continue the legacy of Brother Eli Soriano and *Kuya* Daniel Razon's advocacy to help people in need during this pandemic, with the help of God and our MCGI that are based on Saipan. ...[Last] April 4 to 10 we conducted a feeding

program and from April 7 to 9, we gave away free grocery items," he said.

"MCGI's feeding program and free store were held in various places simultaneously: the Philippines, Brazil, North America, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and other countries and islands where there are MCGI chapters. ...On Saipan, [the] BES House of Chicken offered the [use of the] place for free, no charge for the venue to be part of this advocacy," he added.

Legaspi said he opened not



Management and staff of Bes House of Chicken, headed by manager Leo Legaspi, a long-time businessman on Saipan. Bes House of Chicken supported the feeding program of Members Church of God International Saipan Chapter from April 4 to 10, 2021

BEA CABRERA

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Alibaba fined \$2.8 billion on competition charge in China

BEIJING (AP)—Alibaba Group, the world's biggest e-commerce company, was fined 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) by Chinese regulators on Saturday for anti-competitive tactics, as the ruling Communist Party tightens control over fast-growing tech industries. Party leaders worry about the dominance of China's biggest internet companies, which are expanding into finance, health services and other sensitive areas. The party says anti-monopoly enforcement, especially in tech, is a priority this year. Alibaba was fined for "abusing its dominant position" to limit competition by retailers that use its platforms and hindering "free circulation" of goods, the State Administration for Market Regulation announced. It said the fine was equal to 4% of its total 2019 sales of 455.712 billion yuan (\$69.5 billion). "Alibaba accepts the penalty with sincerity and will ensure its compliance with determination," the company said in a statement. It promised to "operate in accordance with the law with utmost diligence."

Sheriff: Ex-dispatcher accused of refusing to return \$1.2M

GRETN, La. (AP)—A former sheriff's dispatcher in a suburb of New Orleans has been arrested, accused of refusing to return more than \$1.2 million that had been accidentally deposited into her brokerage account, authorities said. Kelyn Spadoni, 33, was taken into custody Wednesday on charges of theft valued over \$25,000, bank fraud and illegal transmission of monetary funds, nola.com and WVUE-TV reported. The reports said she was fired by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office after her arrest. Spadoni is being held at the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center on a \$50,000 bond. It was unknown if she has an attorney who could speak on her behalf. Spadoni is accused of immediately moving the funds to another account and using some of the money to buy a new car and a house, authorities said.

AP source: Electric vehicle battery firms settle trade spat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two big South Korean electric vehicle battery makers have settled a long-running trade dispute that will allow one of them to move ahead with plans to make batteries in Georgia, a person briefed on the matter says. LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation reached the settlement, ending the need for President Joe Biden to intervene in the dispute, the person said Saturday. The person asked not to be identified because the companies have not yet announced the settlement. No

details were available. The U.S. International Trade Commission decided in February that SK stole 22 trade secrets from LG Energy, and that SK should be barred from importing, making or selling batteries in the United States for 10 years. The decision could have left Ford and Volkswagen scrambling for batteries as they both roll out additional electric vehicle models. SK has contracts to make batteries for an electric Ford F-150 pickup truck and an electric Volkswagen SUV.

Labor tries to regroup in wake of Alabama loss

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite the strongest public support and the most sympathetic president in years, the American labor movement just suffered a stinging defeat—again. Amazon warehouse workers in Bessemer, Alabama, overwhelmingly voted against joining the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in much-anticipated election results announced Friday. Amazon and business groups celebrated the decision, saying warehouse workers got a chance to weigh the pros and cons of union membership -- and voted to reject it. But labor activists argue that the lopsided vote shows how unfairly the odds are stacked against union organizing efforts and highlights the need for Congress to reform U.S. labor law. The House last month passed such legislation -- the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act -- but it looks likely to die in the Senate.

Airlines pull Boeing Max jets to inspect electrical systems

Airlines pulled dozens of Boeing Max 737s out of service for inspections after the aircraft maker told them about a possible electrical problem, the latest setback for the plane. Boeing said Friday that the issue affected planes used by 16 airlines. The company did not say how many planes are affected or how long it will take for inspections and, if necessary, repairs. Max jets were grounded worldwide in March 2019 after two crashes killed 346 people. The planes resumed flying in December after regulators in the U.S., Europe, Canada and Brazil approved changes Boeing made to an automated flight-control system that played a role in the crashes. Boeing said the new issue, in which a component in the electrical power system might not be correctly grounded, was unrelated to the flight-control system. Southwest Airlines, which began flying the Max again last month, said it removed 30 of its 58 Max jets from its schedule to inspect them. Southwest spokesman Brian Parrish said the airline has not experienced any known problems related to the electrical issue. (AP)

only the doors of Bes House of Chicken but also at the Daniel's Coffee Shop located beside the restaurant. Their feeding program served food products of BES House of Chicken. For the free store or grocery giveaway (composed of butane canisters, canned goods, rice, coffee, condiments, slippers, etc.), it was held at Daniel's Coffee Shop and benefited people who are out of jobs and needed assistance.

"For the free store/grocery giveaway, recipients were given free points by MCGI volunteers who screened recipients upon arrival so that they can avail of the goods. Overall, we were able to provide food to 73 recipients and free store/grocery items to 75 recipients. ...This will give them enough for at least a week or two to meet their needs," he added.

Legaspi looks forward to more opportunities to help those in need. "...with God's

help, we hope that *Kuya* Daniel Razon with MCGI will continue this program all over the chapters in the Philippines and abroad, including MCGI Saipan and Guam," he said. "...This way, we hope to make them feel that they are not forsaken. We heard one recipient say that this is the first time where we were able to buy items in the store where we didn't need to spend money, which had been a challenge since the pandemic."

Virus knocks 80% off Atlantic City casino profits in 2020

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The coronavirus outbreak sent profits plunging at Atlantic City's casinos by more than 80% last year, according to figures released Friday by New Jersey gambling regulators.

But despite those dismal numbers, seven of the nine casinos still managed to eke out a profit, no matter how small, in 2020.

The state Division of Gaming Enforcement reported the nine casinos collectively posted \$117.5 million in gross operating profits in 2020. That was down from nearly \$594 million a year earlier, before the pandemic forced casinos to close for 3 1/2 months, and limited their operations even after reopening.

Gross operating profit reflects earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and other expenses, and is a widely accepted measure of profitability in the Atlantic City casino industry.

"Atlantic City and its casinos endured their most challenging year in history," said James Plousis, chair of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission. Even after being allowed to reopen in July, the casinos' earnings were limited by travel restrictions, limited amenities, and canceled entertainment, he added.

"Yet, through responsible



A gambler wears a mask while playing a slot machine at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City, N.J., on July 2, the day it reopened after being closed for 3 1/2 months due to the coronavirus outbreak. AP

management, the casinos proved that in-person gaming could happen safely," Plousis said. "As tourists return to the shore, they can have every confidence Atlantic City is safe for the summer."

The Ocean Casino Resort posted the largest operating profit at \$21.8 million, up from \$6.7 million in 2019. Its owners announced this week that the Ilitch family of Detroit, which owns the Little Caesars pizza chain, pro baseball and hockey teams and a Detroit casino, is buying half of the Ocean casino.

Ocean was the only Atlantic City casino to increase its profits during the pandemic year.

"Despite 2020's extraordinary challenges, Ocean

showed continued growth, emerging as an industry leader in gross gaming revenue," Terry Glebocki, Ocean's CEO, said in a statement. "Thanks to our team's hard work and determination in the months before and after our temporary closure due to the global pandemic, Ocean had a successful year. As restrictions ease and we reopen additional areas of our business, I'm optimistic we'll continue to see gaming growth throughout 2021."

The Tropicana earned \$18.7 million, but that was down more than 78% from a year earlier. Hard Rock earned \$10.9 million, down nearly 72%, and Caesars earned \$10.4 million, down more than 84%.

Nation

‘Clear the Capitol,’ Pence pleaded, timeline of riot shows

WASHINGTON (AP)—From a secure room in the Capitol on Jan. 6, as rioters pummeled police and vandalized the building, Vice President Mike Pence tried to assert control. In an urgent phone call to the acting defense secretary, he issued a startling demand.

“Clear the Capitol,” Pence said.

Elsewhere in the building, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi were making a similarly dire appeal to military leaders, asking the Army to deploy the National Guard.

“We need help,” Schumer, D-N.Y., said in desperation, more than an hour after the Senate chamber had been breached.

At the Pentagon, officials were discussing media reports that the mayhem was not confined to Washington and that other state capitals were facing similar violence in what had the makings of a national insurrection.



“We must establish order,” said Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a call with Pentagon leaders.

But order would not be restored for hours.

These new details about the deadly riot are contained in a previously undisclosed document prepared by the Pentagon for internal use that was ob-

tained by The Associated Press and vetted by current and former government officials.

The timeline adds another layer of understanding about the state of fear and panic while the insurrection played out, and lays bare the inaction by then-President Donald Trump and how that void contributed to a slowed response

by the military and law enforcement. It shows that the intelligence missteps, tactical errors and bureaucratic delays were eclipsed by the government’s failure to comprehend the scale and intensity of a violent uprising by its own citizens.

With Trump not engaged, it fell to Pentagon officials, a handful of senior White House aides, the leaders of Congress and the vice president holed up in a secure bunker to manage the chaos.

While the timeline helps to crystalize the frantic character of the crisis, the document, along with hours of sworn testimony, provides only an

AP
In this Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, file photo, violent rioters storm the Capitol, in Washington.

incomplete picture about how the insurrection could have advanced with such swift and lethal force, interrupting the congressional certification of Joe Biden as president and delaying the peaceful transfer of power, the hallmark of American democracy.

Lawmakers, protected to this day by National Guard troops, will hear from the inspector general of the Capitol Police this coming week.

“Any minute that we lost, I need to know why,” Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which is investigating the siege, said last month.

The timeline fills in some of those gaps.

At 4:08 p.m. on Jan. 6, as the rioters roamed the Capitol and after they had menacingly called out for Pelosi, D-Calif., and yelled for Pence to be hanged, the vice president was in a secure location, phoning Christopher Miller, the acting defense secretary, and demanding answers.

There had been a highly

public rift between Trump and Pence, with Trump furious that his vice president refused to halt the Electoral College certification. Interfering with that process was an act that Pence considered unconstitutional. The Constitution makes clear that the vice president’s role in this joint session of Congress is largely ceremonial.

Pence’s call to Miller lasted only a minute. Pence said the Capitol was not secure and he asked military leaders for a deadline for securing the building, according to the document.

By this point it had already been two hours since the mob overwhelmed Capitol Police unprepared for an insurrection. Rioters broke into the building, seized the Senate and paraded to the House. In their path, they left destruction and debris. Dozens of officers were wounded, some gravely.

Just three days earlier, government leaders had talked about the use of the National Guard. On the afternoon of Jan. 3, as lawmakers were sworn in for the new session of Congress, Miller and Milley gathered with Cabinet members to discuss Jan. 6. They also met with Trump.

Mother arrested after 3 kids found slain in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The mother of three children—all under the age of 5—found slain inside a Los Angeles apartment Saturday morning has been arrested, police said.

Liliana Carrillo, 30, was arrested in Tulare County, about 200 miles (322 kilometers) north of Los Angeles. It wasn’t immediately known if she had a lawyer who could speak on her behalf.

The children’s grandmother returned home from work and found their bodies and the mother missing, Los Angeles police Lt. Raul Jovel said.

The Los Angeles Police Department tweeted the children appeared to be under 5 years old. A police spokesman initially said

they were under the age of 3.

The gruesome discovery was made around 9:30 a.m. in the 8000 block of Reseda Boulevard, Jovel said.

Police said initial reports suggested the children had been stabbed to death, but no official cause of death has been released.

Jovel said investigators were still working to determine a motive.

The department received reports Carrillo was driving her car and heading north on Interstate 5 when she got in an altercation in the Bakersfield area. She abandoned her car and carjacked another vehicle, Jovel said.

Carrillo was detained in the Ponderosa area of Tulare

County, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Bakersfield, police said.

“At this point, she is a suspect in this incident but that doesn’t exclude other people,” Jovel said.

Lupe Cuevas, a neighbor of Carrillo and her children, told the San Bernardino Sun that she interacted with the three children and their grandmother during afternoon walks around the neighborhood.

One of the children, a girl, was drawn to her Chihuahua, Rosie, Cuevas told the newspaper.

“Those babies were such sweet little ones,” she said. “It hurts.”

Cuevas said she thought the girl was the middle child of the three.

Shootout in Utah leaves 2 deputies wounded; suspect dead

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Salt Lake County sheriff’s deputies were wounded—one shot in the eye and the other in the cheek—and the suspect was killed during a shootout Saturday morning outside the county jail.

Officials said both deputies were taken to a hospital and were expected to survive. Their identities were not immediately available.

Salt Lake County Sheriff Rosie Rivera said in a news conference that the two injured officers were partners and worked as part of campus security.

The deputy shot in the eye is in critical but stable condition and undergoing surgery, officials said.

“We do believe he is going to survive,” Rivera said.

The other deputy was grazed in the cheek by a bullet and is expected to be released from the hospital soon, officials said.

“It could have been a lot worse,” Rivera said, adding that officials have surveillance video of the shootout.

Rivera said the suspect, a man who appeared to be about 30 years old, is not known to the department and appeared to be a transient.

“We don’t know what their intent was,” Rivera said of the suspect.

The suspect was carrying a weapon and opened fire as deputies approached him on a lawn outside the jail around 10:30 a.m., Rivera said. She

did not know if one or both deputies returned fire, or how many shots were fired.

The officers were assigned to provide security at the sheriff’s campus, which includes the Salt Lake County Metro Jail, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

“What that requires them to do is to drive around the campus and make sure things are secure and also to render aid if anybody needs aid,” Rivera said. “This individual may have been on the grass. We don’t know if he was asleep or not, but something occurred to get their attention to go talk with him. And then it happened very quickly where there was an encounter and shots were fired.”

“We are just fortunate that they weren’t killed,” the sheriff said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Texas infant fatally shot by 3-year-old brother

HOUSTON (AP)—Police believe an infant was fatally shot Friday by his 3-year-old brother after the older boy got a hold of a gun inside a Houston apartment. The infant was shot in his abdomen Friday morning, said Houston Police Department Assistant Chief Wendy Baimbridge. Several adults who were inside the apartment drove the 8-month-old boy to a hospital, where he died. “I just want to take this moment and plead with parents and guardians all over to not allow your firearms to be accessible to anyone in the house. Lock them up. There are things that you can do to render that weapon safe. Please pray for this family. This is just a tragic event,” Baimbridge said. Investigators initially were not able to locate the gun used in the shooting but found it later inside the vehicle that family members had used to take the infant to the hospital. Investigators and prosecutors are still determining if any charges will be filed in the case, Baimbridge said.

Toddler out of medical coma after Chicago road rage shooting

CHICAGO (AP)—A toddler shot in the head while riding in a car on Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive has been removed from a medically induced coma but remains in critical condition, a doctor said Saturday. Kayden Swann remains on a ventilator to help with his breathing in Lurie Children’s Hospital’s pediatric intensive care unit, said Dr. Marcelo Malakooti, the unit’s medical director and the hospital’s associate chief medical officer. The

21-month-old boy “continues to demonstrate positive improvements,” Malakooti said. The shooting occurred Tuesday near Grant Park on the city’s South Side. Police have said one driver would not let another enter a lane of traffic. Kayden was riding in a car driven by his grandfather. A woman jumped out of the car with the child and someone drove them to Northwestern Memorial Hospital before the boy was transferred to Lurie Children’s Hospital. The person who shot Kayden has not been arrested.

1 dead, 3 injured in shooting at Missouri convenience store

KOSHKONONG, Mo. (AP)—One person was killed and three others were critically injured Saturday morning in a shooting at a convenience store in southern Missouri, authorities said. The shooting occurred at a Snappy Mart convenience store in Koshkonong, a town of about 200 people on the Missouri-Arkansas border. Officers were alerted when a clerk inside the store called 911. The suspect walked into the store and started firing with a handgun. Several witnesses inside the store were not injured, Oregon County Sheriff Eric King said. A 28-year-old suspect from Thayer, Missouri, was arrested about four hours later in neighboring Howell County, King said. Authorities do not believe any other suspects are involved. The suspect and at least one of the victims knew each other, the sheriff said. Three of the victims, including the person who died, were from out of state. No other details were immediately released. Koshkonong is about 145 miles (233.35 kilometers) southeast of Springfield, Missouri.

Asia

Reports: Myanmar forces kill 82 in single day in city

YANGON (AP)—At least 82 people were killed in one day in a crackdown by Myanmar security forces on pro-democracy protesters, according to reports Saturday from independent local media and an organization that keeps track of casualties since the February coup.

Friday's death toll in Bago was the biggest one-day total for a single city since March 14, when just over 100 people were killed in Yangon, the country's biggest city. Bago is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Yangon. The Associated Press is unable to independently verify the number of deaths.

The death toll of 82 was a preliminary one compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which issues daily counts of casualties and arrests from the crackdown in the aftermath of the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Their tallies are widely accepted as highly credible because cases are not added until they have been confirmed, with the details published on their website.

In its Saturday report, the group said that it expected the number of dead in Bago to rise as more cases were verified.

The online news site Myanmar Now also reported that 82 people had been killed, citing an unnamed source involved with charity rescue work. Myanmar Now and other local media said the bodies had been collected by the military and dumped on the grounds of a Buddhist pagoda.

At least 701 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces since the army's takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

The attack on Bago was the third in the past week involving the massive use of force to try to crush the persistent opposition to the ruling junta.

Attacks were launched Wednesday on hardcore opponents of military rule who had set up strongholds in the towns of Kalay and Taze in the country's north. In both places, at least 11 people—possibly including some bystanders—were reported killed.

The security forces were accused of using heavy weapons in their attacks, including rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, though such allegations could not be independently confirmed by The Associated Press. Photos posted on social media from Bago appeared to show

fragments of mortar shells.

Most protests in cities and town around the country are carried out by nonviolent demonstrators who consider themselves part of a civil disobedience movement.

But as the police and military escalated the use of lethal force, a hardcore faction of protesters armed themselves with homemade weapons such as firebombs in the name of self-defense. In Kalay, activists dubbed themselves a "civil army" and some equipped themselves with rudimentary hunting rifles that are traditional in the remote area.

A report by Myanmar Now said residents of Tamu, a town in the same region as Kalay, used hunting rifles Saturday to ambush a military convoy, and claimed to kill three soldiers.

The junta has taken other measures as well to discourage resistance. It recently published a wanted list of 140 people active in the arts and journalism charged with spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law. The penalty for the offense is up to three years' imprisonment. Arrests of those on the list have been highly publicized in state media.

tourist hotspot of Bali, officials said Saturday. No tsunami warnings were posted. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.0 quake struck off the island's southern coast at 2:00 p.m. local time (0700 GMT). It was centered 45 kilometers (28 miles) south of Sumberpucung town of Malang District in East Java province, at a depth of 82 kilometers (51 miles). Rahmat Triyono, the head of Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami center, said in a statement the undersea tremor did not have the potential to cause a tsunami. Still, he urged people to stay away from slopes of soil or rocks that have the potential for landslides.

21 Chinese coal miners trapped by underground flood

BEIJING (AP)—Rescuers on Sunday were trying to reach 21 coal miners who were trapped by an underground flood in China's northwest, a state news agency reported. The mine in Hutubi County in the Xinjiang region flooded at about 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, the Xinhua News Agency

said. It said eight people were rescued. China's coal mines are among the world's deadliest, regularly suffering explosions and gas leaks despite repeated safety crackdowns.

COVID-19 patient receives lung transplant from living donors

TOKYO (AP)—Doctors in Japan announced Thursday they have successfully performed the world's first transplant of lung tissue from living donors to a patient with severe lung damage from COVID-19. The recipient, identified only as a woman from Japan's western region of Kansai, is recovering after the nearly 11-hour operation on Wednesday, Kyoto University Hospital said in a statement. It said her husband and son, who donated parts of their lungs, are also in stable condition. The university said it was the world's first transplant of lung tissue from living donors to a person with COVID-19 lung damage. Transplants from brain-dead donors in Japan are still rare, and living donors are considered a more realistic option for patients.

World

Ash-covered St. Vincent braces for more volcanic eruptions

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP)—People who ignored an initial warning to evacuate the area closest to a volcano on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent raced to get clear Saturday, a day after it erupted with an explosion that shook the ground, spewed ash skyward and blanketed the island in a layer of fine volcanic rock.

The eruption Friday of La Soufrière—its first large one since 1979—transformed the island's lush towns and villages into gloomy, gray versions of themselves. A strong sulfur smell was unavoidable Saturday and ash covered everything, creeping into homes, cars and noses, and obscuring the sunshine that makes the island so popular with tourists.

Chellise Rogers, who lives in the village of Biabou, which is in an area of St. Vincent that's considered safe, said she could hear continuous rumbling.

"It's exhilarating and scary at the same time," she said. "(It's the) first time I am witnessing a volcano eruption."

Scientists warn that the explosions could continue for



Plumes of ash rise from the La Soufriere volcano as it erupts on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent, as seen from Chateaubelair, Friday, April 9, 2021.

days or even weeks, and that the worst could be yet to come.

"The first bang is not necessarily the biggest bang this volcano will give," Richard Robertson, a geologist with the University of the West Indies' Seismic Research Center, said during a news conference.

About 16,000 people have had to flee their ash-covered communities with as many belongings as they could stuff into suitcases and back-

packs. However, there have been no reports of anyone being killed or injured by the initial blast or those that followed. Before it blew, the government ordered people to evacuate the most high-risk area around the 4,003-foot (1,220-meter) volcano after scientists warned that magma was moving close to the surface.

Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of the 32 islands that make up the country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said on local station NBC Radio that people should remain calm, be patient and keep trying to protect themselves from the coronavirus. He said officials were trying to figure out the best way to collect and dispose of the ash, which covered an airport runway near the capital of Kingstown, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south, and fell as far away as Barbados, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) to the east.

"It's difficult to breathe," the prime minister said, adding that although the volcano was venting less, a big plume of ash remained. "What goes up, must come down."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran enforces 10-day lockdown amid fourth wave of pandemic

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Saturday began a 10-day lockdown amid a fourth wave of coronavirus infections, state TV reported, a worrisome trend after more than a year of the country battling the Middle East's worst outbreak. Iran's coronavirus task force, charged with determining virus restrictions, ordered most shops closed and offices restricted to one-third capacity in cities declared as "red-zones." The capital Tehran and 250 other cities and towns across the country have been declared red zones. They have the highest virus positivity rates and the most severe restrictions in place. Over 85% of the country now has either a red or orange infection status, authorities said. The severe surge in infections follows a two-week public holiday for Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Millions traveled to the Caspian coast and other popular vacation spots, packed markets to shop for new clothes and toys and congregated in homes for parties in defiance of govern-

ment health guidelines. The new lockdown also affects all parks, restaurants, bakeries, beauty salons, malls and bookstores.

Famed Egyptian archaeologist reveals details of ancient city

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's best-known archaeologist on Saturday revealed further details on a Pharaonic city recently found in the southern province of Luxor. Zahi Hawass said that archaeologists found brick houses, artifacts, and tools from pharaonic times at the site of the 3,000-year-old lost city. It dates back to Amenhotep III of the 18th dynasty, whose reign is considered a golden era for ancient Egypt. "This is really a large city that was lost... The inscription that found inside here says that this city was called: 'The dazzling Aten'," Hawass told reporters at the site. Archeologists started excavating in the area last year, searching for the mortuary temple of boy King Tutankhamun. However, within weeks they found mud brick formations that eventually turned out to be a well-pre-

served large city. City walls and even rooms filled with ovens, storage pottery, and utensils used in daily life are said to be present.

Electrical problem strikes Iran's Natanz nuclear facility

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's Natanz nuclear site suffered a problem Sunday involving its electrical distribution grid just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges that more quickly enrich uranium, state TV reported. It was the latest incident to strike one of Tehran's most secure sites amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers. State TV quoted Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesman for Iran's civilian nuclear program, announcing the incident. "Kamalvandi said fortunately the incident has not caused any human damage or contamination," a state TV anchorwoman said. "The cause of the incident is under investigation." The word state television used in its report attributed to Kamalvandi in Farsi also can be used for "accident."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US-Philippines in talks over China's ships

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP)—Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday discussed with his Philippine counterpart China's recent positioning of "militia vessels" near the Philippines in the South China Sea. Austin spoke by phone with Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana while Austin was flying from Washington to Israel to begin an international trip. Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Austin and Lorenzana discussed the situation in the South China Sea and the recent massing of Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef, which has drawn criticism from Manila. China has said its vessels are there for fishing.

Indonesia quake kills 8 in Java, jolts Bali; no tsunami risk

MALANG, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake killed at least eight people, injured 23 others and damaged more than 300 buildings on Indonesia's main island of Java and was also felt on the

Health & Wellness

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MAYO CLINIC Q AND A

Stretching your hamstring

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I am a very active person. I visit the gym and run regularly. Although I have been able to avoid any major injuries, I find myself constantly stretching my hamstrings. It seems no matter how flexible I get, they still feel tight. What else can I do?

ANSWER: Having an active lifestyle is important to achieving long-term health and wellness, so congratulations on maintaining regular exercise—and avoiding injuries. Stretching has probably helped protect you from injury.

Stretching is an important component of any exercise program. Most aerobic and strength training programs inherently cause your muscles to contract and tighten. Stretching can increase flexibility and improve your joints' range of motion, helping you move more freely. Stretching after you exercise also can boost circulation.

It is not uncommon to see patients like yourself who have a constant urge to stretch their hamstrings, a muscle on the back of the thigh that bends the knee. These patients state that they feel the desire to stretch frequently to get rid of a sensation that their muscle feels tight or stiff. This type of stretch-

ing is known as static stretching—when we passively hold a muscle in an elongated position in attempts to lengthen it from its previous state.

More often than not, stretching only provides short-term relief, and then the tight sensation comes right back. The reason for this has to do with how your body is triggering you and with the way your nerve and pain pathways work.

Studies have shown that this feeling of stiffness does not always correlate with lack of mobility or flexibility in the affected area. Instead, the stiffness is a message from the nervous system alerting the brain on the current state of your body. In essence, your body is hurting, so the nervous system is sending this message in hopes of getting your attention to slow your movements. In some cases, the sensation of tightness and stiffness may signal an injury, but usually it is only an alert from the body in an attempt to help you avoid potential injury.

Pain nerves do not exist in the body. Instead, the nerve endings send messages about its environment to the brain. It may tell the brain it is experiencing sensations such as warmth, vibration or light touch, which can be considered potential threats. These

Stretching is an important component of any exercise program.

messages are taken from the nerve endings, up the spinal cord and into the brain. At this point, the brain weighs the importance of the information, and decides that it is harmful or dismisses it. If it decides that the environment is harmful, the brain creates pain sensations at that location. Relating this back to stiffness, this sensation is simply a constant message being sent from the nerve endings about that muscle, and the brain is deciding that the message could potentially be harmful. As a result, the brain is creating discomfort in that area.

Over time, however, when the affected area of the body is strengthened, the nervous system becomes less concerned about injury because it no longer perceives weakness as a potential threat.

Patients with hamstring issues often get more long-term relief from tightness with specific stability exercises as opposed to stretching alone.

Consider adding activities such as squats or dead lifts.

Be aware that there is another common pain generator that often sends people to physical therapy: the piriformis muscle. This muscle is beneath your glutes and works to turn your hip outward. Pain in this muscle can create a constant grabbing sensation in the glute, and can cause you to have a sore lower back and hamstrings. Typically, this can be treated with stretches where you pull your knee up toward your opposite shoulder.

In general, when you're stretching, keep it gentle. Breathe freely as you hold each stretch for around 30 seconds. Try not to hold your breath. Don't bounce or hold a painful stretch. Expect to feel tension while you're stretching. If you feel pain, you've gone too far.

Remember that the sensations felt in your body are your brain's attempts to tell you to strengthen, move

or behave in a different way. These sensations serve to drive your behaviors and do not necessarily correlate with the actual biomechanical state of the body. As a result, perceived stiffness does not always mean that the muscle is tight or needs to be stretched. Oftentimes, the muscle needs strengthening to help bring stability to the tissue. You may find this guide to stretching useful.

If you're continuing to experience tension or pain, and stretches do not relieve this tension or pain, consult with a physical therapist, orthopedist or sports medicine specialist. These health care providers can identify the underlying cause of your constant feeling of tightness and, if necessary, provide you with individualized strengthening exercises to improve your symptoms.

Lauren Hubbard, D.P.T., Physical Therapy, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

The pandemic forced us to stop hugging, shaking hands. That's not necessarily a bad thing.

By RASHA ALI
USA TODAY/TNS

To hug or not to hug?

For the last year, we've been advised by the Centers for Disease Control to avoid physical contact with anyone not in our immediate household in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For those living alone, that meant the total absence of physical touch. Don't shake hands, don't hug anyone and definitely don't kiss anyone.

The lack of physical touch has been trying, but many have gotten used to newer, more creative ways of greeting each other whether it's a friendly wave from six feet away or an elbow bump. And though we still don't have a pandemic end-date, as more Americans get vaccinated and are able to abide by the new CDC guidelines, we may be able to go back to hugging, shaking hands and cheek kisses soon. But should we?

The pandemic has taken the pressure off forced interactions and allowed us time to reevaluate boundaries around physical touch, experts say.

"It's been helpful in the sense that people get to have a little more per-

sonal autonomy, you don't have to follow that social contract that has been set up of how you are supposed to greet people," says Ashley Peterson, a licensed psychotherapist.

Shafia Zaloom, a health educator at the Urban School in San Francisco, says this social contract has caused some people to minimize their discomfort in the past "and just accept that physical greetings like handshakes and hugs because they are the perceived norm."

"Many get the message that ... it's only a handshake and it would be impolite to offer anything otherwise," Zaloom says, adding this idea is ingrained in us from childhood.

Kids are often told to give people hugs

It's a common tale: An adult relative comes over and a parent tells a child to greet that person with a hug or a kiss. But as physical touch vanished during the pandemic, the pressure put on kids to physically greet people waned, and experts say it's a practice we should stick with post-pandemic.

"We want our kids to trust their intuition, especially when it relates to body autonomy. We also want kids

to have a sense of agency when it comes to their intuition and their bodies, which is an important part of their emerging sexuality," Zaloom says.

Peterson agrees children should have personal autonomy, but she notes each household's cultural background will play a role in whether the lack of emphasis on physical greetings sticks.

Physical greetings can vary greatly from culture to culture. In Sudan, it's common to go in for a hug, two kisses on the cheek and end the greeting with a handshake (yes, all at once) while in Miami it's not unusual to see people air kissing hello.

Peterson says now is a perfect time for parents to have that discussion with their kids and help guide them in making decisions about how they'd like to greet people. The idea is not to cancel hugs for relatives but rather to lessen the pressure put on kids; if the child wants to go for the hug, they should. But it should be up to them.

"Everyone doesn't view children as being able to make their own decisions even though ... they should definitely be able to say who they want to touch, hug and all those other things with their bodies."

Everyone has physical boundaries

Adults too are encouraged to be open and communicate about their physical boundaries.

Hugs, kisses and handshakes may not immediately disappear and they don't have to, but we can be more cognizant of how people want to be treated and respect that, Zaloom says.

"Instead of thinking about if we should do away with this or add that, I think our energy is better spent shifting the culture to be more accepting of what feels acceptable to both people who are engaged in the greeting," Zaloom says.

Though some people may be yearning for physical touch, the pandemic has shown us handshakes may not be the best remedy.

"I don't think we should ever shake hands ever again," Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and President Joe Biden's Chief Medical Adviser, said in May 2020. "We've got to break that custom. Because as a matter of fact, that is really one of the major ways that you can transmit a respiratory illness."

Instead of handshakes, Zaloom suggests "an enthusiastic or mean-

ingful verbal salutation, a bow, a head nod and smile, or drop a beat on your greeting and do a mini dance."

Peterson says physical touch is important especially for people who rely on non-verbal validation or affection. Things like shaking someone's hand while looking them in the eye show you're listening and an embrace from someone you care about can be reassuring if physical touch is your love language.

"It's the nonverbal communication that I think people miss as well, because now you're not getting affirmed if people don't say it. And if you're not a person that is able to effectively communicate how you're feeling, then you are able to rely on those nonverbal displays of affection," Peterson says.

As important as physical touch is, she hopes the pandemic has allowed people to take a pause and think about how others may feel about touching.

"It would be helpful if (post-pandemic) we're able to kind of recognize that we all don't have to follow the exact same path of interacting with people," Peterson says. "So if it's something that you are looking forward to or something that you want to do, then yes, you should be able to do it."



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Life & Style

Charles: Royal family 'deeply grateful' for world's support

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Charles offered a heartfelt tribute to his "dear Papa" on Saturday as Buckingham Palace offered the broad outlines of a royal funeral that will be attended by the family and broadcast to the world.

As Queen Elizabeth II and other relatives mourned, Charles offered a personal video message saying the royal family was "deeply grateful" for the outpouring of support they've received following the death Friday of his 99-year-old father, Prince Philip. The heir to the throne said he was touched by the number of people around the world who have shared his family's loss and sorrow.

"My dear Papa was a very special person who I think, above all else, would have been amazed by the reaction and the touching things that have been said about him," Charles said, speaking from his southwestern England home of Highgrove. "And from that point of view we are, my family, deeply grateful for all that. It will sustain us in this particular loss and at this particularly sad time."

Philip's royal ceremonial funeral will take place April 17 at Windsor Castle—a slimmed-down service amid the COVID-19 pandemic that will be entirely closed to the public. The palace insisted the royals would strictly adhere to national virus guidelines, measures that in theory would entail mask wearing in an enclosed space and social distancing. The palace declined to comment on specifics.

Philip, the queen's husband of 73 years who was also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, took part in planning his own funeral and its focus on family was in accordance with his wishes. The duke also took part in designing the modified Land Rover that will carry his coffin.

"Although the ceremonial arrangements are reduced, the occasion will still celebrate and recognize



In this Wednesday, May 9, 2012 file photo, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II sits next to Prince Philip in the House of Lords as she waits to read the Queen's Speech to lawmakers in London.

AP

the duke's life and his more than 70 years of service to the Queen, the UK and the Commonwealth," a palace spokesman said Saturday while speaking on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Prince Harry, Philip's grandson who stepped away from royal duties last year and now lives in California, will attend the service at Windsor along with other members of the royal family. His wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is pregnant and has been advised by her doctor not to make the long journey to the U.K.

Another no-show will be Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose office said he would not attend because

current coronavirus restrictions limit funerals to 30 people, so by staying away that would "allow for as many family members as possible."

The palace appealed to the public not to gather in Windsor or at Buckingham Palace in London to pay their respects to Philip—advice that was roundly disregarded by many.

Earlier Saturday, military teams across the U.K. and on ships at sea fired 41-gun salutes to mark Philip's death, honoring the former naval officer whom they considered one of their own.

Batteries in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast—the capitals of the four nations that make up the

United Kingdom—as well as other cities around the U.K. and the Mediterranean outpost of Gibraltar fired the volleys at one-minute intervals beginning at midday. Ships including the HMS Montrose, a frigate patrolling the Persian Gulf, offered their own salutes.

"The Duke of Edinburgh served among us during the Second World War, and he remained devoted to the Royal Navy and the Armed Forces as a whole," Gen. Nick Carter, chief of the defense staff, said in a statement. "A life well-lived. His Royal Highness leaves us with a legacy of indomitable spirit, steadfastness and an unshakeable sense of duty."

Members of the Commonwealth, a group of 54 countries headed by the queen, were also invited to honor Philip. The Australian Defense Force began its salute at 5 p.m. outside Parliament House in Canberra, and New Zealand planned to offer its own tribute on Sunday.

Philip joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939 and once had a promising military career. In 1941, he was honored for his service during the battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Greece, when his control of searchlights aboard the HMS Valiant allowed the battleship to pinpoint enemy vessels in the dark. Philip rose to the rank of commander before he retired from active duty.

Two years after the war ended, Philip married Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey when she was 21 and he was 26. Philip's naval career came to an abrupt end when King George VI died in 1952 and his wife became queen.

At the queen's coronation in 1953, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb" and settled into a life supporting the monarch. The couple had four children—Charles, the heir to the throne, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

Before he retired from official duties in 2017, the prince carried out more than 22,000 solo public engagements and supported over 780 organizations, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for young people.

Members of the public continued to honor Philip's life of service, leaving flowers Saturday outside Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

"I think everyone would like to pay their respects," Maureen Field, 67, said outside Windsor Castle. "Because of the virus, a lot of people have to stay away. He didn't want a big funeral. He wanted a very private time with his family to say their goodbyes. So, we've all got to respect that."

DNA tests make racial heritage undeniable

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband was the product of an extramarital, interracial relationship. Both of the parents who raised him are white, and he has always denied he was biracial despite the obvious physical characteristics that say otherwise.

Our two beautiful teenage children were raised to believe they are white. We recently took ancestry tests, and what I believed to be true has been confirmed. My children have 25% African DNA.

For this reason, since our divorce, my children have been raised to be open-minded on the subject of race. Because of this, I don't believe they will struggle with the new information. However, I am concerned about the questions they will ask, how much information to give them about their grandmother's choices and how to deal with their father, who I know will be furious when he finds out. Please help.

THE TRUTH IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR TRUTH: If your children have questions, answer them honestly. Do not jump the gun and render any opinions about their grandmother and her choices. I'm sure you had your reasons for testing your children's DNA. As to how to deal with your ex's reaction to the fact that you did, let it be HIS problem. Do not allow him to make it yours.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 20 years. I have used my maiden name since we were married. His daughter still insists on addressing mail to me using my husband's last name, even though I have never used it and have signed documents for her using my correct name.

I have asked him to remind his daughter what my name is. He is very sensitive to anything construed as criticism of his daughter, so I need to know of a diplomatic way to ask again.

NOT MY NAME IN THE WEST

DEAR NOT MY NAME: Do not ask your husband to do what you need to do. Are you at all close to his daughter? The time has come to do something you should have done well over a decade ago. Talk with her and ask why she persists in doing something she knows annoys you. Is she intellectually challenged? Forgetful? From where I sit, it seems like a passive-aggressive attempt to get your goat.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am five years sober after 35-plus years of drinking. I have recently gotten married and plan a small celebration once COVID-19 slows some more. I'm not comfortable serving alcohol at my wedding since most of my friends are in the AA fellowship. But I am also around people who drink responsibly, including my new wife. Any help is appreciated.

SERVING ALCOHOL

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR SERVING: If the majority of your guests will be members of the AA fellowship, I see no reason why you can't have a sober celebration. If the number is about equal, however, it would be gracious to have alcohol for those who indulge, while providing a generous array of alternatives for yourself and your AA friends.

■■■

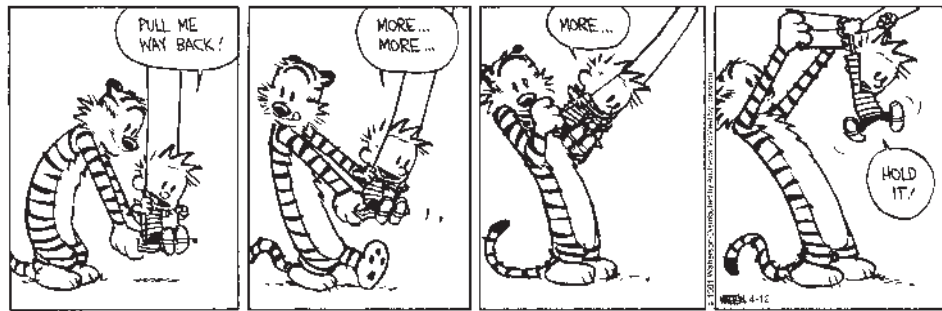
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



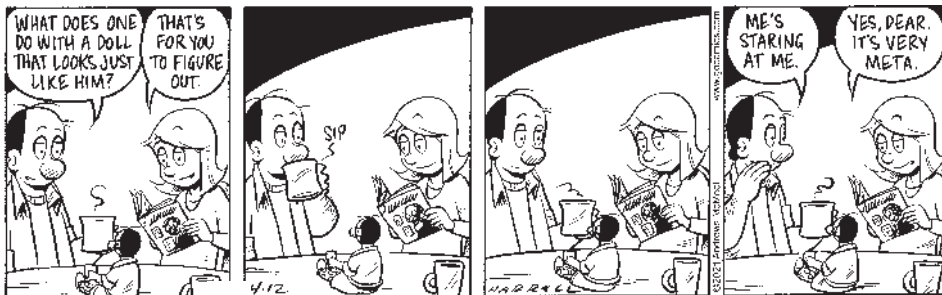
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "How's it goin'?"

4 The Browns, on scoreboards

7 Fireplace fuel

11 Ship's staff

13 Peace (Lat.)

14 Mystique

15 Monster

16 "I — Rock"

17 Detail

18 Lukewarm

20 Ink smudge

22 "Gosh!"

24 Poet Dylan

28 Maybe

32 Slow mover

33 Skip

34 "Feels so good!"

36 Off-white

37 Boxer's dream

39 Bureau

41 Elevator alternative

43 Perched

DOWN

44 Lily pad traveler

46 Sport played at Eton

50 Air outlet

53 Winter ailment

55 Meander

56 Out of the storm

57 Author Fleming

58 Dealer's foe

59 Tale teller

60 Annex

61 Grazing land

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	S	T	R	O	S	A	S	M	C	L
M	A	H	E	R	A	C	T	A	A	A
E	N	A	T	H	E	F	I	E	M	
R	C	L	A	I	S	I	D	E	A	
N	E	O	S	I	R	C	A	S	T	S
A	S	S	T	R	S	V	P	S		
P	L	E	A	S	E	A	R	C	T	I
E	M	O	T	E	R	E	S	E	N	E
V	A	V	I	B	E	S	T	O	W	
T	H	E	C	A	R	S	A	V	I	E
R	A	V	P	I	E	V	E	R	S	E
E	S	P	E	T	E	R	E	C	T	

Last Friday's Answer 04/12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Akai Osei, 22; Claire Danes, 42; Jennifer Morrison, 42; Ed O'Neill, 75.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace. You have plenty to do if you want to reach your expectations. Set goals, deadlines and plans in motion, and draw on those who can offer information, assistance and emotional support. Don't give up when all that's required is discipline, hard work and dedication. Personal gain is within reach, and romance and commitment are favored. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 27, 34, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Say what's on your mind, and finish what you start. You can accomplish all you set out to do as long as you are direct regarding your intentions and quick to stop any obstacles that stand in your way. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop waffling and start doing. Hesitation will be your downfall. Do your own thing and turn into the one who steps into a leadership position. Be direct, reliable and efficient, and you will excel. Don't give in to bullying or pressure. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Check out your options, and investigate what you require to make a change that will boost your reputation, status or position. Don't sell yourself short or let anyone discourage you from following your heart. Head in a direction that excites you. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to your principles, plans and passion. Refuse to let anyone get in your way or take advantage of your kindness. Keep your expenses down, and choose to be moderate and cautious regarding investments, purchases and your health. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop worrying about what others do or think. Embrace the people and the projects that give you the highest return. Say what's on your mind, and be open about the way you feel. Self-improvement and educational pursuits are favored. Romance is favored. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a moment to organize and strategize. You'll feel better if you have a plan in place that will ensure whatever you pursue will run flawlessly. You may desire change, but a hasty move will lead to mistakes and regret. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stay focused on what and who is important to you. Nurture relationships, and pay attention to what's going on around you. Put your energy behind what you envision. Strive to improve your life, health and relationships. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your emotions controlled and concentrate on making changes to improve your life. Don't spend on items you don't need or people who are taking advantage of you. Evaluate your lifestyle, living quarters and relationships, and prepare to make a move. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't waste time pondering over something or someone. Concentrate on what you can do to make your life better. Gather information, avoid extravagant people and look for the

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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balance in your life that will ease stress and bring you peace of mind. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Proceed with caution. Refrain from getting into a spat with a friend, colleague or relative. Keep your opinions and plans to yourself until you have everything in place. A change you want to make will face opposition. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what you enjoy doing most and head in that direction. An optimistic attitude will encourage others to support your plans. Change the way you use your skills to suit trends, and you'll find a way to supplement your earnings. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have more options than you realize. Look over your credentials and update your skills, and you'll find a way to make a lucrative change. Don't make excuses for yourself or others; put the blame where it belongs, and make adjustments. ***

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, insightful and energetic. You are intelligent and outgoing. ☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺: Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

							8		
8		4	1	2	5				
		1		7		5	4		
	8		4		2		5		
	7	2				8	1		
	4		3		7		2		
	2	7		5		3			
			2	6	9	4		8	
9									

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	5	6	8	1	9	4	3	7
3	4	1	7	2	5	6	8	9
8	7	9	6	4	3	1	5	2
1	3	5	2	7	6	9	4	8
6	9	2	4	3	8	5	7	1
7	8	4	9	5	1	3	2	6
9	2	7	3	6	4	8	1	5
5	6	3	1	8	7	2	9	4
4	1	8	5	9	2	7	6	3

Difficulty Level ★

4/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WEBINARS

Solution: 6 letters

B S S C R E E N K T O P I C S
S U M R E M I N D C C L I C K
D E S R A C I S O E T A L K I
O D M I O L R N N R H N T N E
W R L I N F N E R I I C V L T
N O I T N E T T A D N I I L A
L C S S C A S A E T T E F A N R
O E Y T C L E R S L E E T E S A T
A R S A C R R S S P R L U N S
D E I M L U T A H C A E R N N
S R N R M P D O W U C L V O O
T P P O L L S O S T T X E T M
I I O F H T I I R A F D Y A E
D Z M M S P V V D P I O S T D
E C N E I D U A E V R E S E R

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Annotate, Attention, Audience, Business, Chat, Click, Connects, Create, Demonstrate, Direct, Display, Download, Edits, Email, File, Formats, Hosts, Interact, Invites, Lead, Learn, Link, Live, Niche, Phone, Plan, Platforms, Polls, Prerecord, Products, Real, Remind, Reserve, Screen, Seminars, Software, Surveys, Talk, Text, Time, Topics, Trial, Video, Visuals, Zoom

Last Friday's Answer: Pleasure

To purchase WONDERWORD books.

visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Mitchell scores 42 points, Jazz roll to 24th home win in row



SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 14 of his season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz beat the Sacramento Kings 128-112 on Saturday night, extending their franchise-record home winning streak to 24 games.

Mitchell had his 18th 30-point game this season, powering the NBA-leading Jazz's 19-4 run in the fourth quarter. Mitchell has scored 41, 37 and 42 points in his last three games. Mike Conley had 26 points, and Joe Ingles added 20.

De'Aaron Fox scored 30 points for the Kings, and Richaun Holmes had 25. They have lost six in a row.

Lakers 126, Nets 101

In New York, Andre Drummond had 20 points and 11 rebounds, Dennis Schroder scored 19 points before he and Kyrie Irving were ejected in the third quarter and Los Angeles routed Brooklyn.

A nationally televised matchup already missing plenty of star power lost even more when Irving started jawing with Schroder and neither player stopped quickly enough for the officials.

The Lakers had led most of the way and were ahead 66-62 when Irving fouled Schroder with 9:41 left in the third. Los Angeles blew it open soon after the ejections with a 15-2 burst to open an 88-71 lead.

A potential NBA Finals preview had a preseason feel with so many top names unavailable. LeBron James (right ankle sprain) and Anthony Davis (right calf strain) remain out for the Lakers, while James Harden is sidelined with a strained right hamstring for the Nets.

The Lakers handled being



Miami Marlins' Jazz Chisholm Jr. stands at first after being walked by New York Mets relief pitcher Edwin Diaz in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 10, 2021, in New York.

short-handed much better. Ben McLemore, in his second game with Los Angeles, scored 17 points.

Kevin Durant scored 22 points in his second game back following a 23-game absence with his own hamstring injury. Irving added 18, but the Nets had their nine-game home winning streak snapped.

76ers 117, Thunder 93

In Oklahoma City, Joel Embiid had 27 points and nine rebounds and Philadelphia beat Oklahoma City to pull even with Brooklyn for the Eastern Conference lead.

On Friday night in a loss at New Orleans, Embiid went just 5 for 16 from the floor and scored 14 points. He was 10 for 17 in three quarters of

work against the Thunder.

Furkan Korkmaz added a season-high 20 points for the 76ers.

Darius Bazley had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Tony Bradley added 16 points and 14 rebounds for Oklahoma City. The Thunder have lost six straight.

Suns 134, Wizards 106

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 27 points and Phoenix used a 44-point third quarter to rout Washington.

Deandre Ayton had 14 points and 10 rebounds, Chris Paul added 13 points and 10 assists and Phoenix had only three turnovers to tie the franchise record. The Suns have won 17 of their last 21 games and are 37-15 overall.

Raul Neto had a career-high 24 points for the Wizards, and Russell Westbrook added his NBA-leading 22nd triple-double with 17 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds. They played without NBA scoring leader Bradley Beal because of back tightness.

Trail Blazers 118, Pistons 103

In Portland, Ore., Enes Kanter had 24 points and a franchise-record 30 rebounds to help Portland beat Detroit.

Kanter bested Sidney Wicks' Portland record of 27 rebounds set in 1975. Kanter also surpassed his own career high of 26 set with the Knicks in 2018.

Damian Lillard had 27 points and 10 assists and CJ

McCollum added 26 points for the Trail Blazers. Josh Jackson had 21 points for the Pistons.

Warriors 125, Rockets 109

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 23 of his 38 points in the third quarter and Golden State beat Houston.

Curry had his sixth straight 30-point game, the longest streak of his career. The two-time MVP made eight 3-pointers and had five assists and eight rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins added 25 points for Golden State. Jordan Poole had 21.

John Wall had 30 points and seven assists for Houston. Kelly Olynyk added 18 points and 11 rebounds. The Rockets have lost nine of 11.

Raptors 135, Cavaliers 115

In Cleveland, Gary Trent Jr. scored a career-high 44 points and severely short-handed Toronto scored a franchise-record 87 first-half points to rout Cleveland.

Trent made 17 of 19 field goals, including shooting 7 of 9 from 3-point range, and went 3 of 3 from the foul line in 33 minutes. He was acquired from Portland with Rodney Hood on March 25 for Norman Powell.

The Raptors, were without their top three scorers in Pascal Siakam (rest), Fred VanVleet (left hip flexor strain) and Kyle Lowry (right foot infection).

Collin Sexton scored 29 points for Cleveland.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Former baseball star Alex Rodriguez and e-commerce mogul Marc Lore signed a letter of intent Saturday to buy the Timberwolves and keep the NBA team in Minnesota, owner Glen Taylor said.

The agreement, which also includes the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx, opens a 30-day window for negotiations to be finalized. If accountants and attorneys for both sides agree, the deal would then need to be approved by the league.

The Athletic first reported the \$1.5 billion sale.

Under the conditions of the deal, Taylor would keep control of the club for the next two years and bring on Rodriguez and Lore as partners until a handover in 2023. In a phone interview with The Associated Press, Taylor said

T-wolves owner: A-Rod, partner in agreement to buy NBA club

their connection went "terrifically well" and that he was "happy" and excited about what's to come.

"They've asked that I would be there for any decisions that would need to be made," Taylor said. "I would enjoy that. I love teaching people. These are a couple of very bright guys, and I think it could be helpful to the club and I think I could be helpful to them so that they feel confident once they take over 100%."

Taylor, who put the teams on the market last year, said he was first approached by Rodriguez and Lore a week ago. The pair traveled to meet Taylor and his wife at their winter home in Naples, Florida. Taylor, who turns 80 on April 20, has spoken with

numerous suitors over the years but taken a deliberate approach to finding a buyer he's comfortable with. He said he's done that with Rodriguez and Lore.

"I was concerned if I got ill or something happened to me what would happen to the club. This gives me a path that I know it's going to happen. I feel confident that they'll take care of the franchise and move it ahead," Taylor said.

Throughout the sale process, he told interested parties that keeping the franchises in town was a prerequisite for purchase.

"There was no use talking to them if they didn't agree to that," Taylor said.

The Timberwolves, who entered the league in 1989 as

an expansion club, were on their way to New Orleans in 1994 before Taylor, a lifelong Minnesotan who built his fortune from a small commercial printing business, bought the team for \$88 million.

As part of the renovations at Target Center that were initiated in 2016, the team's lease with the city of Minneapolis carries a \$50 million penalty if it were to be broken prior to 2035.

Rodriguez and Lore are 50-50 partners in the deal, Taylor said.

The 45-year-old Rodriguez hit 696 home runs over 22 major league seasons, with the New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers. His last season on the field was 2016, marking the

end of marvelous career that was tainted by performance enhancing drug use he later admitted to. Rodriguez was suspended for the entire 2014 season for violating Major League Baseball policy. Lore became Walmart's e-commerce chief in 2016, when the retail giant bought his Jet.com startup in an attempt to boost online business. Lore notified Walmart on Jan. 31 of his intent to leave the company. The 49-year-old Lore will continue to serve in a consulting role as a strategic adviser through September.

Rodriguez and Lore confirmed the agreement in a statement distributed to ESPN.

"We look forward to entering this phase of the process with Glen Taylor. Our respect

for him and the legacy he has built lays an amazing foundation for what is to come. We are excited by the prospect of getting to know the Timberwolves organization," the statement said.

Rodriguez was the headliner in a group that tried to purchase the New York Mets last year, before dropping out. Hedge fund manager Steve Cohen bought the club instead.

The background on the biggest stages of major sports that Rodriguez has was intriguing to Taylor.

"I just think he understands leadership and what it takes and the different ways that you can coach and motivate people," Taylor said, "and I think having him around will be helpful in the selection of the right leaders for the team."

Chisholm homers off deGrom, Marlins beat Mets, 3-0



NEW YORK
(AP)—Jazz Chisholm

Jr. hit a stunning homer off an otherwise dominant Jacob deGrom, Trevor Rogers beat the two-time Cy Young Award winner for the second time and the Miami Marlins blanked the New York Mets 3-0 on Saturday.

DeGrom (0-1) matched a career best with 14 strikeouts over eight innings, Rogers fanned 10 in six and the teams combined for 28 overall.

The 23-year-old Rogers (1-1) outpitched deGrom for the second time in nine major league starts. The left-hander got his first big league win against deGrom in a 5-3 victory last Aug. 31. This was his second.

A 2017 first-round draft pick, Rogers cruised in his third career outing against New York. He scattered three hits and two walks, retiring 11 straight during one stretch.

Rogers mixed a fastball averaging 95 mph with a slider and changeup, inducing 19 swing-and-misses among his 82 pitches. He ended his outing with strikeouts of Michael Conforto and Pete Alonso, stranding two runners to preserve a 1-0 lead.

Dylan Floro followed with a perfect seventh, Richard Bleier was helped by shortstop Miguel Rojas' diving catch to rob pinch-hitter Kevin Pillar during a 1-2-3 eighth, and Yimi García completed the three-hitter for his first save, spelling struggling closer Anthony Bass.

Dodgers 9, Nationals 5

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor hit a three-run homer and Zach McKinstry made big plays with his bat and arm in Los Angeles' victory over Washington.

AJ Pollock also drove in three runs for the defending World Series champions. They are off to a 7-2 start that includes wins in four of their last five games.

Julio Urias (2-0) allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Juan Soto homered twice and Ryan Zimmerman had three hits for the Nationals. Patrick Corbin (0-1) was the loser.

Rays 4, Yankees 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Meadows and Randy Arozarena homered off Domingo Germán, helping Tampa Bay extend its mastery over New York.

The Rays have won 10 of 12 regular-season games between the AL East rivals since the start of 2020. Tampa Bay also eliminated the Yankees from last year's playoffs in a five-game series that went the distance.

Six Tampa Bay pitchers



combined to limit the Yankees to five hits.

Meadows got things rolling for the Rays with a solo homer in the first inning, his third of the season. He had three hits in Tampa Bay's 10-5 win over New York the previous day and has homered three times in eight career at-bats against Germán (0-2).

Arozarena hit a 420-foot solo shot in the third inning for a 4-0 lead. Andrew Kittredge (2-0) worked 1 2/3 innings for the victory.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 4, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Rafael Devers homered and Boston scored twice in the 10th inning on a wild pitch and an RBI single by Christian Vázquez to beat Baltimore for its fifth straight victory.

Baltimore outfielder Trey Mancini hit his first home run since his return from cancer surgery that caused him to miss the 2020 season. It was Mancini's first homer since Sept. 28, 2019.

Michael Chavis, recalled from the alternate training site earlier in the day, entered as a pinch-runner in the 10th and scored on a low pitch by Dillon Tate (0-1) that rolled to the backstop. Vázquez added an insurance run with a single off Wade LeBlanc.

Matt Barnes (1-0) struck out two in the ninth, and Matt Andriese earned Boston's first save of the season.

Brewers 9, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, Avisail García homered, doubled and drove in five runs and Milwaukee

ended St. Louis' winning streak at four games.

Keston Hiura hit a three-run homer that capped a five-run burst in the seventh inning that made it 8-2. The Brewers won for the third time in four games.

García's two-run homer off Carlos Martínez (0-2) gave Milwaukee a 3-0 lead in the fifth. García drew a bases-loaded walk in the sixth and added a two-run double in the seventh.

Brewers starter Adrian Houser (1-1) allowed runners in each of his five innings and was pulled after walking Yadier Molina to begin the sixth.

Austin Dean hit a three-run homer for the Cardinals in the eighth.

Athletics 7, Astros 3

In Houston, Ramón Laureano hit a two-run homer, rookie Seth Brown connected for his first big league home run and the Oakland Athletics beat the Houston Astros 7-3 to win the series.

The Astros won the opener 6-2 on Thursday night to give them five straight victories over the A's after a four-game sweep to start the season.

Brown sent a homer into the second deck in the eighth inning to give the Athletics five home runs in the last two games after they managed just three in their first eight.

Frankie Montas (1-1) held Houston scoreless and retired seven in a row before Kyle Tucker's solo homer to start the seventh ended his day. Houston starter José Urquidy (0-1) allowed seven hits and four runs.

Pirates 8, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Mitch Keller pitched five efficient innings and Pittsburgh used an early burst to chase Chicago's Zach Davies.

Phil Evans hit his team-high third homer as the Pirates ended a six-game losing streak.

Keller (1-1) bounced back from a rough 2021 debut by allowing one run. The 25-year-old, who has struggled with his command since spring training started, struck out seven and walked just one.

Colin Moran, Bryan Reynolds and Jacob Stallings all drove in two runs during Pittsburgh's seven-run outburst in the second against Davies (1-1).

Giants 4, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford delivered the decisive hit for a second straight day, connecting for a three-run homer in the sixth inning in San Francisco's victory over Colorado.

Crawford also came through with a bases-loaded, two-run double in the seventh of a 3-1 victory Friday in the home opener.

Ben Bowden (0-2) relieved Chi Chi González and surrendered consecutive walks to Alex Dickerson and pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores before Crawford's second homer of the season.

Ryan McMahon had put the Rockies ahead 3-1 with a two-run homer in the fifth.

Caleb Baragar (2-0) pitched the sixth for the win. Three relievers later, Jake McGee earned his fourth save overall

Miami Marlins' Jazz Chisholm Jr. stands at first after being walked by New York Mets relief pitcher Edwin Diaz in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 10, 2021, in New York.

and second in two games facing his former Colorado club.

Mariners 4, Twins 3, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Mitch Haniger homered and hit the go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, lifting Seattle past Minnesota.

All three of Minnesota's losses this season have come in the 10th, with the bullpen struggling with baseball's new-as-of-2020 rule that starts each extra inning with a runner on second base.

For Seattle, that was Taylor Trammell, who homered earlier in the game. Taylor Rogers (0-1) picked up Braden Bishop's bunt in front of the mound, but he couldn't get a clean grip and held off on a throw as a precaution. Haniger hit a one-out fly deep enough to left for Trammell to come home.

Kendall Graveman (1-0) worked the ninth, and Keynan Middleton pitched a perfect 10th for the save.

Indians 11, Tigers 3

In Cleveland, Aaron Civale allowed just three hits while dominating over 7 2/3 innings and was backed by five home runs, including Jordan Luplow's three-run shot, as Cleveland pounded Detroit.

Luplow narrowly missed a second three-run homer, settling for a two-run double to finish with a career-high five RBIs. Franmil Reyes hit his third homer in two days, Roberto Pérez and Andrés Giménez each added a two-run homer and César Hernández had a solo shot.

Civale (2-0), who beat the Tigers in his season debut a week ago, gave up two singles and faced the minimum through six innings before Robbie Grossman homered off him in the seventh.

Jeimer Candelario hit a two-run homer in the ninth for Detroit.

Tarik Skubal (0-1) was the loser.

Padres 7, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas (AP) — Trent Grisham hit a go-ahead homer for San Diego in the seventh inning and the Padres followed up the franchise's first no-hitter with another victory over Texas.

A day after Joe Musgrove pitched that no-hitter, the Padres won their seventh in a row against Texas. Eric Hosmer and Ha-Seong Kim also

homered for San Diego.

Grisham put San Diego up 5-4 with his two-run homer off reliever Wes Benjamin (0-1).

Ryan Weathers (1-0) struck out three in his two innings, though he gave up a tiebreaking solo homer to Isiah Kiner-Falefa in the fifth. Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

Diamondbacks 8, Reds 3

In Phoenix, Riley Smith pitched six effective innings in his first career start, Tim Lincecum had four hits and Arizona cooled off Cincinnati.

Smith (1-0) gave up two runs on eight hits against a Reds team that had won six in a row.

The Diamondbacks — who came in hitting just .205 through eight games — broke the game open with a five-run fifth. Eduardo Escobar added his third homer of the season on a solo shot in the seventh. Asdrubal Cabrera also homered.

Jeff Hoffman (1-1) was the loser.

Braves 5, Phillies 4

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer and drove in the go-ahead run with a ground-er in the seventh inning to lead Atlanta past Philadelphia.

The Braves have recovered from an 0-4 start with a four-game winning streak, including the first two games of this series against the NL East rival Phillies.

Sean Newcomb (1-0) had strikeouts on four of his six outs in relief of Ian Anderson. The right-hander yielded four runs in 5 1/3 innings and gave up homers to Andrew McCutchen in the fifth and Bryce Harper in the sixth. Will Smith pitched a perfect ninth for his second save. Archie Bradley (0-1) took the loss.

Blue Jays 15, Angels 1

In Dunedin, Fla., Bo Bichette had five RBIs, Randal Grichuk hit a three-run double during a seven-run second inning and Toronto stopped a four-game skid by routing Los Angeles following a rain delay that lasted more than 2 1/2 hours.

Bichette had two-run doubles in the third and fourth, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added RBI singles in both innings as the Blue Jays went up 14-1. The pair drew bases-loaded walks in the second from José Quintana (0-1), who allowed seven runs, five hits and four walks in 1 2/3 innings.

The game ended about 12 hours before Sunday's series finale was scheduled to start.

Steven Matz (2-0) gave up one run in six innings.

Anthony Rendon homered for the Angels, and manager Joe Maddon was ejected in the third.

ROLLERS

From Page 20

"The kids they did amazing. They worked hard in practice. Everything that we trained for in practice they executed on the court. They executed the full-court press exactly how we designed it. The fastbreaks, the passing, the scoring, everything came together. They worked hard but I just want everyone to know though that we are one Rollers. They really had to work hard to beat the Rollers White team."

He also gave kudos to Enriquez who despite just being 8 years old made clutch shots in the second half.

"First time I saw her I told her 'OK Venice dribble with your right hand' and she started doing it and I said 'Wow!' and then I said 'now cross-over and dribble with your left hand' and she did a cross-over and dribbled with her left hand. That's when I knew she's a little bit more advanced for her age than others," said Apatang.

Enriquez led Rollers Black with 5 points followed by the 4 points each of Dave Tibayan, Kian Estolas, Lane Laxama, and Finals MVP Jeff Pineda,

who also stuffed the stats sheet with 6 rebounds, 3 steals, and an assist and block each.

David Apatang Jr., the Rollers Black coach's son, led the opposing team with 6 points. Pangelinan and Thomas Lanzo added 4, while Tenorio and Tomakane chipped in a deuce each.

In the awards ceremony immediately following the game, Apatang won Regular Season MVP as well as King of Rebounds (23) and King of Blocks (3). Scoring Champion went to Tibayan (21), while King of Steals and King of Assists went to Pangelinan (10) and Tenorio (3), respectively.

The Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League is under the direction of tournament director Ethan Kwon.

Results of the U14, U17, and U18 will be published in the succeeding issues of the *Saipan Tribune*.

Rollers Black 21 – Enriquez 5, Tibayan 4, Estolas 4, Pineda 4, Laxama 4.

Rollers White 18 – Apatang 6, Pangelinan 4, Lanzo 4, Tomokane 2, Tenorio 2.

Scoring by halves: 8-12, 21-18.

TATAGAS

From Page 20

Camacho, Javen Camacho, Zenn Tomokane, and Roman Teigita shook off all the fatigue from playing four straight games under the searing hot sun that day and shocked the Eagles, 25-23, in a barn-burning opening set.

Needing only a win to clinch the middle school grass volleyball diadem, GCA pushed forward in the second race-to-21. However, Manzon and company had other ideas as they wore out coach Cesar Libut's team in the second set en route to a relatively easy 21-16 victory.

While a cat has nine lives, GCA apparently had three since they were undefeated before the finals and the Tatagas needed to win one more set to finally wrest the championship.

Tanapag players were on the defensive early in the deciding third set, as the Eagles soared like the birds of prey that they were picking on an obviously tuckered out Tatagas.

But the fish had one last gasp in them, obviously invigorated by a crucial call that went against GCA. With the Eagles in front by 4 points, 16-12, GCA's setter was called for a violation for tossing the volleyball over the net. Under the tournament's ground rules that was illegal so a point and the service went to Tanapag.

Torculas-Woodruff's team took full advantage of a seemingly disheveled GCA team and rallied, scoring eight of the set's last 10 points with the

final point fittingly on a Manzon spike to clinch the championship.

Asked what it took for Tanapag to eke out gutsy wins in those three sets, Torculas-Woodruff deflected all the praises to her players.

"My players' determination and will to win was what brought us to the championship. We had dedication, time, and effort to practice every day. Like what our principal kept reminding us, enjoy the game because it's not about winning but the moment of the game, the memories we can bring with us, and the people we share the memories with," she said.

Torculas-Woodruff said Manzon was really a big factor in the championship as the jovial spiker was like a coach on the court.

"My team captain Jerome Manzon helped me with this journey. Nobody knows for sure why we won because, on any given day, any given team can beat any other team. Jerome is an outstanding athlete as he understands the mental game not just the physical," said the physical education and health teacher at Tanapag.

The 2021 boys Middle School Grass Volleyball League was organized by Nick Gross, Public School System athletic director, with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

Results of the girls 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League between Hopwood and Tanapag will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

MAHI

From Page 20

edition of the yearly fishing tournament for the *coryphaena hippurus* or dolphin fish.

Iglecias and his crew caught the day's bounty of the sea—an 18.9-lb whopper. The retired Customs employee said they were just lucky they caught the mightiest mahi of the derby.

"I got bigger ones before... normally mahi they stay out late every year. For February and March it's hard to catch especially April. By July it's like 1lb or 2 lbs and that's the biggest catch. I tried fishing for it in July during the [The

Saipan International Fishing Tournament] and I caught 2 lbs and it was already good enough for second place," he said.

Iglecias said they got their prize about five hours after setting sail from the Smiling Cove Marina and caught it east of Saipan, more specifically between Saipan and Tinian.

"Every year that's my favorite spot for the derby," said the resident of Dandan.

Iglecias' first mate, Ilmov, said them winning the 2017 mahi derby wasn't just about pure luck as he and the rest of the crew of *Trophy* leaned heavily on the experience of their captain.

"I've been with captain Alvin for two years. He has already many years of experience and he really knows the waters around Saipan and also understands the weather and a little bit of luck that allowed us to win this year," he said.

Iglecias and company edged CAT-SIKA of captain Jesse Sablan who landed an 18.2-lb mahi, while rounding out the Top 3 was *Kingfisher 2* of captain Jun Azarcon with their 17.9-lb catch.

Sablan's crew aboard *Reel Tight* was made up of Gonzalo Pangelinan, Christopher Pangelinan, George Davi, and Nathan David.

Kingfisher 2 crewmembers aboard the ship with the same name included Elmer Ocampo and Manuel Mogan.

For a hard day's work in the water, 10/17 took home the top prize of \$2,000, while CAT-SIKA got \$1,500 and *Kingfisher 2* \$1,000.

Masaki Kitami's Salty Bandits (16.5 lbs) and John Sablan's MV *Gloria 2* (14.4 lbs) received consolation prizes for finishing fourth and fifth places, respectively.

The main sponsor of the year's 17th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby is Budweiser and the sporting event was organized by the Saipan Fishermen's Association.

Hafa Adai-Tirow CNMI...

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Mitchell scores
42 points, Jazz
roll to 24th home
win in row

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Chisholm
homers off
deGrom, Marlins
beat Mets, 3-0

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Tatagas top boys grass v-ball



MARK RABAGO

Tanapag Middle School players and coaches pose with their perpetual trophy after winning the boys 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field. Also in photo is Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan, standing left.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tanapag Middle School won three straight do-or-die sets against elimination round topnotcher Grace Christian Academy in the finals to rule the boys 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The GCA Eagles were the first to advance to the championship round after beating the Tatagas in the semifinals.

They previously also defeated Saipan International School 2, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School 2, and Dandan Middle

School 2 in the eliminations. Prior to losing in the semifinals, Tanapag rolled past Tinian, DMS 1, and Hopwood



Middle School. The Tatagas of coach Catherine Torculas-Woodruff needed three sets to advance to the finals against GCA, after beating SIS 2.

In the finals, Jerome Manzón, Keahie Omapas, Justin

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By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

10/7 reels in mightiest mahi



Captain Alvin Iglecias and his crew of five aboard the boat Trophy reeled in the mightiest mahi Saturday to rule the 17th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby.

The 50-year-old skipper and 10/7 team made up of Ivan Ilmov, Keith Torres, Brandon Echalico, John Jimeno, and Phil Babauta topped 58 other boaters to win the COVID-19

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MARK RABAGO

Captain Alvin Iglecias and his crew of five aboard the boat Trophy are awarded their \$2,000 cash prize for winning the 17th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby at the weighing station of Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday.



MARK RABAGO

Tanapag Middle School players and coaches hug and jump in jubilation after their hard-fought victory.

Rollers Black wins U11 title

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rollers Black beat sister team Rollers White to win the U11 championship of the Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Coach David John Apatang's team overhauled a 4-point halftime deficit and leaned on the endgame heroics of Venice Enriquez to capture age group championship with a score of 21-18.

Peyton Pangelinan, Andrei Tenorio, and Leighton Tomakane presided over

Rollers White's dominant first half that saw the team score 12 points as against Rollers Black's measly 8 markers.

But Rollers Black turned the tables after the halftime buzzer as

Enriquez scored all of her 5 points in the second half, including a put-back off a crucial offensive rebound that gave her team the insurance basket with less than a minute to go in the contest.

Apatang praised his players for rising to the occasion and beating their sister team when it counted the most.

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MARK RABAGO

Rollers Black's Kian Estolas goes for a fastbreak layup against Rollers White in the U11 championship of the Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.